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U S O N G.

A N

EASTERN NARRATIVE.

WRITTEN IN GERMAN

By BARON HALLER.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. I.

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PREFACE.

IN compliance with the ſolicitations of ſeveral friends, I have dedicated ſome leiſure hours to a manuſcript, the author of which is unknown, and which I have endeavoured to reduce into ſome order and regular connexion.

Uſum (*which the* Portugueſe *pronounce* Uſong) *was confeſſedly a great and glorious monarch of* Perſia: Pedro Bizarro *has ſet forth his praiſes in the following words.* " Fuit decora proce-
" ritate, vi corporis, licet gracilis, ad-
" modum inſignis: forma principe
" viro digna, liberalis præterea, fortis,

" magnanimus, prudens, bellicosus, vi-
" suque et auditu juxta venerabilis *."

He subdued all Persia *in a few years, and was possessed of more extensive dominions than any of his successors, especially towards the west in* Mesopotamia *and* Armenia. *He was much inclined to the Christian faith, and lived in the greatest harmony with his* Trebizontine *consort, who persevered in the religion of her forefathers* †. *His wars with the* Turks, *with the sultan of* Egypt, *with* Abusaid, *and the other sovereigns of* Persia, *are recorded by the* European *Writers nearly in the same manner as in the ma-*

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* *Hist. Regn.* Pers. *l.* 10, *p.* 263.

† *Idem ibid.*

nuscript.

nuſcript. He died in the year 1488 *, the 6th of* January, *at which time* Barbaro *reſided at his court in the character of* Venetian *embaſſador. The relations of this* Barbaro's, *as well as of* Contarini's *embaſſies are now extant.* Uſong's *daughter married* Alid Haider, *and was mother to* Iſmael, *the anceſtor of the well-known race of* Sophis.

This manuſcript differs, in ſome other reſpects, from the European *accounts. In the former, he is ſaid to have been a* Mongalian; *the latter derive him from the* Turcomans, *a people too vicious and barbarous to be thought capable of having*

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* Barbaro, *p.* 479. *Other Authors mention* 1478, *and* Herbelot 1482, *but* Barbaro *was on the ſpot.*

ever

ever reared among them a prince ſo well bred and accompliſhed as Uſong *appears to have been. We find that* Timur *thinking himſelf injured by* Bajazeth, *ſtigmatized him with the name of a* Turcoman. *The travels of* Uſong *have never been known by the weſtern nations; although they relate his friendſhip with the* Venetians, *the embaſſies of* Zeno, Barbaro, *and* Contarini, *nearly in the ſame manner as the manuſcript: but they attribute to him, beſides the daughter above-mentioned, ſeveral ſons, who are ſaid to have ſurvived him. Many interior regulations, which* Uſong *eſtabliſhed, and which are ſtill obſerved in* Perſia, *are aſcribed by the occidental writers to other emperors.* Uſong's *firſt conſort is not mentioned by them, as*

as having been a Chineſe *princeſs; nor indeed do they take any notice of her at all.*

I muſt confeſs, that I have traced ſeveral contradictions in the accounts the eaſtern and weſtern authors have given us of this monarch; eſpecially when we conſider that ſome of the Zengides *have ſat on the throne of* Perſia *almoſt to the preſent times. My leiſure did not allow me critically to compare thoſe different accounts. I have abridged the manuſcript, and thought proper to omit* Veribenius's *account of the latter days of* Uſong's *life: it appeared to me of too ſericus a nature to be introduced in a narrative, which, though ſolely dedicated to the encouragement of the practice of virtue,*

virtue, has yet admitted of ſome incidental amorous tales. It is however eaſy to perceive that Uſong's *laſt friend had excited in him the great hopes that are ſuggeſted by the Chriſtian religion. I have left the proper names of perſons and provinces in their eaſtern dreſſes.*

May I hope to be indulged for having employed part of my time in a work, which might better have ſuited the pen of a younger author than myſelf?

Bern, *the* 29*th* Auguſt 1771. HALLER.

ERRATA.

Page 17, Line 4, only *read* alone.
21, 1, ſhock *read* ſhook.
121, 1, council *read* counſel.
128, 3, *Shehan—Shach* read *Shehan Shach.*

U S O N G.

BOOK THE FIRST.

TWO generations of mankind had now appeared on the ſtage of life, ſince the imperial line of the *Iwens* had been expelled the throne of *China*. The offspring of the godlike *Oguz* and of the mighty *Zengis* were relapſed into their former mediocrity. Great was their number, and their chiefs, as well as their tribes, were reduced to the homely fare their

 cattle,

cattle, and the ſpoils of the chace could afford them. The wealth of *China*, the coſtly feſtive apparel, the ſumptuous Pâlankins, the innumerable retinue of Mandarins, the ſplendor of the throne were all vaniſhed; and an hide, forcibly extorted from a rapacious animal, was now the proudeſt attire that decked the iſſue of the Conqueror of the Univerſe.

One of them, the head of the elder branch of the great *Kublai*, the bold *Timurtaſh*, pitched his tents, during the winter ſeaſon, near the weſtern banks of the *Kokonor* *. His numerous tribe overſpread a wide extended lawn, and

* A large lake in *Mongalia*, weſtward of *Schenſi*.

his

his faithful ſubjects enjoyed, under his government, reciprocal confidence and domeſtic tranquillity. In ſummer he gradually retired into the *Ulanian* mountains, to which he was invited by the cooling ſhades, and rich paſtures they afforded to his cattle and horſes.—*Timurtaſh* ſtill remembered that he was deſcended from the *Iwens* *, whom an implicit dependance on the *Bonzes* had depraved, and who had at length been detruded from the imperial dignity, by the fortunate *Hungwu*, a baſe ſervant of thoſe crafty *Bonzes*. He foſtered in his boſom an inveterate hatred againſt the prieſts, whoſe ſuperſtitions had at length enervated the manly virtues of the *Zengides*, whoſe ſelfiſhneſs had filled

* See Univ. Hiſt.

the court with treacherous attendants, and ſeduced the prince to every vicious purſuit. — Neither could he patiently brook the mortifying reflexion that *Ming*, the deſcendant of a vile ſlave of the prieſts, ſhould now be ſeated on the moſt ſplendid throne in the world, and enjoy all the high prerogatives of a child of heaven, which he claimed as his own peculiar appenage.

The weakneſs of his numbers did not prevent *Timurtaſh* from ſeeking every opportunity to wreak the vengeance he conſidered as his duty. Towards the weſt, he conſtantly annoyed the arrogant prieſt, who claimed divine honours at *Laſſa:* to the eaſt he made frequent inroads into the neighbouring

bouring provinces of *China*. The unrelenting wars he carried on againſt the enemies of his anceſtors, enured his followers to arms: they became the moſt formidable among the tribes that bend to the ſway of the *Zengide* race. Victory amply rewarded their toils and valour: they inſpired a dread to all their neighbours: and the confidence they placed in their own bravery, rendered them next to invincible.

Timurtaſh, one day, made an excurſion towards the weſt: he had penetrated as far as the lake *Zila*, when he diſcovered a numerous train of *Tibeters* deſcending an eaſy eminence before him—With a pomp unuſual in thoſe deſerts, they ſeemed to bend their way

towards *Laſſa* — A reſplendent throne was reared on the back of an elephant, and ſilken curtains concealed the perſon who occupied that royal ſeat: a number of women were ſeen reclined on ſeveral painted chariots, whilſt other carriages ſeemed loaded with treaſures, and all manner of princely ſtores: a gay variety of party-coloured ſtreamers decorated the proceſſion; and even the guards that eſcorted it, were more ſumptuouſly clad than any of the ſubjects of *Dalay Lama.*

As a hawk is ſeen to dart upon the affrighted heron, ſo did *Timurtaſh* ruſh among the ſubjects of the prieſt: they fled, and abandoned the ineſtimable

booty

booty to the diſcretion of the conqueror.

The prince, deſirous to be better acquainted with his new acquiſition, drew nearer to the elephant — The curtains were drawn: A fair one, in a royal attire, appeared, who, in an unknown language, ſeemed to implore the mercy of the conqueror. *Timurtaſh* was a ſtranger to love: he had never ſeen, among his *Mongalian* women, any object capable of fixing his attention— The charms of the captive princeſs eclipſed every idea of beauty he had before conceived; every form he had till then admired ſeemed now offenſive: — her beauteous perſon diſplayed all the elegance of ſhape, her face the

lovely circling eye-brows, the large ſparkling eyes, and all the noble features that diſtinguiſh the ladies of *Caſhmir:* nor was ſhe leſs ſuperior to thoſe fair ones in birth, than ſhe excelled them in beauty; ſhe was daughter to the king of that bleſſed country, and was now, in the midſt of this pompous train, conducting to the young and newly deified *Dalay Lama*, as his intended bride.

Timurtaſh felt emotions in his boſom which were perfectly new to him: his ſtubborn heart, till then, had experienced no ſenſations but the fierce tranſports of a conquering warrior, and the cruel ſatisfaction of a glutted vengeance. The ſudden emotions he now felt, ſuggeſted

geſted to him that far greater pleaſures were yet in ſtore: and he flattered himſelf that love would henceforth prove the ſource of more exquiſite bliſs than he had ever derived from fame, or his ſatiated wrath. He approached the princeſs with the ingenuous courteſy that proceeds from the heart, and is by no means wedded to any particular manners or cuſtoms: his eyes and friendly mien aſſured her that ſhe had no reaſon to be alarmed at the ſudden change of her fortune, and that the *Mongalians* would receive her with all the veneration ſhe could have expected at *Laſſa*. He diſmiſſed the greateſt part of her attendants, and retained only thoſe of her women whom ſhe herſelf was pleaſed to name.—He ſeated her

her on one of his fleeteſt courſers, and haſtened back into his rugged mountains.

The whole tribe paid homage to the triumphant *Timurtaſh:* they all vied with each other in paying obſequious reverence to the fair one, whoſe charms they ſoon perceived, had captivated the heart of their prince. Her lover inſtructed her in the language of his tribe. He was young; and though his features bore the marks of the *Mongalian* race, yet his cheerful ſoul diffuſed over his countenance, and animated his whole perſon with an uncommon degree of ſprightlineſs and dignity. The eaſtern princeſſes are doomed by their cuſtoms to accept of any nuptial tie their fate ordains;

ordains; they are denied the privilege of comparing objects, and of beſtowing their affections upon the moſt favoured ſuitors. *Sheheriſtani*, this was name of the royal princeſs of *Caſhmir*, was pleaſed with the unaffected paſſion and artleſs profeſſions of her conqueror, and ſoon became his Conſort.

Timurtaſh had now no hopes of living in peace with the nations of *Tibet*; he had offended them in too outrageous a manner. He repeated his inroads againſt a people, from whom he could expect nothing, but the fierceſt animoſity and the moſt avenging wrath; his whole life was a ſeries of ſmall victories.— His lovely conſort was delivered of a ſon, the perfect image of herſelf: He reſembled

reſembled the reſt of the *Mongalians* in nothing, but the ſteady vigour of an indefatigable body; his growth was ſo rapid that it procured him the appellation of *The Long*. His eyes, his features, his complexion were in nothing inferior to thoſe of his amiable mother; and his whole perſon, and every geſture beſpoke the uncommon greatneſs of his ſoul.

His father took care to enure him to the toils of a *Scythian* prince.—He ſoon excelled all the other *Mongalians* in ſhooting at the mark; none could, like him, tame the fiery mettle of an unruly horſe; none could wreſtle with ſuch dextrous agility; none were ſo apt to reſiſt, or force their way through the

frigid

frigid waves of the *Kokonor*.—He followed his father with raptures, whenever he artfully decoyed a ferocious tiger into the neighbouring covert; nor could he contain his tranſport when the lance of *Timurtaſh* pierced the heart of the monſter. *Uſong*, thus was the ſon of *Sheheriſtani* named, inſtructed the *Shongar* * to ſeize upon his prey.—In his earlieſt youth he was unwearied in the purſuits of the chace: he ſcorned to yield to any fatigue, or to retreat from any appearance of danger.

Timurtaſh had ſtill, in the number of his retainers, ſome deſcendants of the faithful *Chineſe*, who, rather than ſubmit

* A nothern bird of prey, much eſteemed.

to

to the uſurped power of *Ming*, choſe to accompany the fugitive *Iwens*, and ſhare in their misfortunes. A wiſe man of that extraction, one who had not only ſtudied with aſſiduous application, but alſo continually practiſed the precepts of *Kong-fu-ſee* *, was appointed to inſtruct the mind of the young prince. *Uſong* ſoon reliſhed, and eagerly attended to a doctrine that ſo thoroughly coincided with his own noble diſpoſition. He perceived, in his own nature, that the practice of juſtice, of benevolence, of magnanimity, could never fail to eſtabliſh the happineſs of all thoſe who are ſolely addicted to ſuch eminent virtues. His heart glowed with the generous

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* *Confucius.*

emulation

emulation of being the beſt, the wiſeſt, the moſt accompliſhed of all the youths who were joined to him in their education. He was equally anxious to poliſh his underſtanding, as to exert his bodily vigour. He read part of the book of *Shuking* †, and extracted the moſt memorable paſſages.—So enlarged was his mind, ſo wide was his heart expanded, that he was capable of comprehending, at once, all the virtues and ſuperior excellencies of many ages, and of many countries.

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† *Shuking* is one of the Canonical books of the *Chineſe*, in which *Confucius* has recorded the councils and wiſe ſayings of the old Emperors and of their miniſters.

Uſong

Uſong had now, amidſt the endearments and fond admonitions of his exulting parents, attained the fourteenth year of his age; but his vigour was arrived at a much greater degree of maturity than his years ſeemed to allow. He was now enflamed with an ardent deſire to acquire both fame and experience in ſome real hoſtile encounter; and yet his father's tender love baniſhed from him all hopes of being permitted to ſignalize his impetuous courage. The *Mongalians* were now preparing for an incurſion into *Schenſi:* the braveſt of the tribe were arming for this expedition againſt the old enemies of the *Zengides*. *Uſong* reſolved to ſhare the fate of the adventurers: he provided a horſe, arms, and a proper diſguiſe, and ſuffered

fered no one to follow him but his faithful *Scherin*, who in mental virtues and bodily accompliſhments was inferior to none of the *Mongalians* but *Uſong* only, and exceeded him only in a ſmall number of years.—He gave out a hunting party on the downs that extend on the oppoſite ſide of the road leading to *Schenſi*: he watched the opportunity, when the warriors were one day's journey diſtant from the tents of his father, and then made all poſſible haſte to overtake them. They received him as one of their tribe, who had joined them from ſome neighbouring friendly horde, and proceeded on their march; whilſt the diſconſolate *Timurtaſh* cauſed his miſſing child to be anxiouſly ſought for in every

part of the country laying weſtward of his encampment.

The *Scythians* ſwam acroſs the *Yellow River* and by that means avoided the great wall. They laid waſte the habitations of a rich and happy people, who followed their reſpective callings in the greateſt eaſe and ſecurity. They collected an immenſe booty: but an avenging foe awaited their approach.

Liewang was *Zongtu* of *Setſhuen* and *Schenſi*; a wiſe and equitable man, whoſe fine accompliſhments of the mind were greatly enhanced by the noble feelings of his heart: He was a worthy deſcendant of the great *Kong-fu-ſee*— He did not offer to reſiſt the firſt brunt of

of the invaders; but thought it moſt adviſeable to intercept their retreat, when the incumbrance of their heavy baggage would render them unfit for action, and their dangerous ſecurity would betray them into a fatal careleſſneſs, its inſeparable companion. He choſe a narrow vale, ſituated between woody hills, through which he knew the *Scythians* would direct their march towards their dreary deſarts. He collected his beſt diſciplined troops, which in this province are known to excel the more ſouthern *Chineſe* in courage and military conduct: he alſo gathered a number of thoſe warriors, who poſſeſs the pernicious art of driving leaden balls through iron-tubes by the ſudden exploſion of a kindled powder; a weapon

far more deſtructive than the *Scythian* ſhafts, and to which the *Mongalians*, being unacquainted with its nature and effects, could oppoſe nothing of ſo murderous a tendency. He alſo brought forth large metal tubes, which were drawn by horſes; and caſt out ſtones with ſo rapid a violence, that no wall could reſiſt the horrid ſhock, and threw a ruinous confuſion into the beſt-compacted bands.

The *Mongalians*, who held their foes in the greateſt contempt, came heedleſsly into the fatal valley: they traverſed it in a ſlow pace, their march being greatly retarded by the multitude of captives, and the rich ſpoils they had carried off.—The loud re-echoing

claps

claps of the mortiferous fire-arms ſhock the mountains on a ſudden: death poured upon the brave *Scythians* from every hill, and from each impending thicket: even the bloody ſatisfaction of encountering their foes, and of dying the death of ſoldiers was denied them. *Uſong*, from a natural inſtinct of unexperienced valour, had choſen the moſt dangerous poſt in the hindmoſt part of the train. "Haſten, my friends," he cried to the warriors that ſtood neareſt him, "haſten out of the valley of "ſlaughter, and let us pour vengeance "on the rear of our enemy." A few of the moſt intrepid followed him: they ruſhed upon *Liewang*'s own guards. The keen ſabre of the young Hero ſoon cleared a way to the gilded

dragon, the enſign of the ſupreme ſway of a Vice-roy. He flattered himſelf with the hopes of being able to overthrow the chief himſelf, and then to force a retreat over the lifeleſs bodies of his enemies: but the number of his undaunted followers was too ſmall; they were ſurrounded. Many expired on the protended ſpears of the *Chineſe*; the reſt were ſoon diſarmed.

So near had *Uſong* approached the Vice-roy, that the latter had a full view of his ſhape and lineaments. He took him for a ſtranger, bred in the more diſtant regions of the weſt, and could not but admire the comelineſs of his figure. He ordered that the life of the graceful youth ſhould be preſerved,

and that they ſhould endeavour to take him priſoner: this command was eaſily executed, whilſt *Uſong* was ſtruggling to diſentangle himſelf from his wounded horſe, which had fallen under him. He was conducted, together with his friend, and other priſoners, to the capital of *Schenſi*, the immenſe *Singan*, no ways inferior to imperial *Pekin*. *Liewang* was received as the deliverer of the country: and the people, who had always admired his many exalted virtues, found new grounds of veneration in his triumphant military ſkill and conduct.

The hurry of buſineſs prevented the Vice-roy from ſpeaking to the captive ſtranger: he cauſed him however to be queſtioned concerning the name of his

country, and the reaſons that prompted him to wage ſuch cruel war againſt a peaceful realm. *Uſong* was well acquainted with the ſuſpicious laws of *China*; he knew that by declaring himſelf one of the *Iwens*, he ſhould pronounce his own doom, and that death would be inevitable: he reſolved therefore to confirm the Vice-roy in his miſtake, and paſſed for a *Mongalian*, of a horde more diſtant and better ſhaped than thoſe who had ſo newly been defeated. His abode was aſſigned him with the gardener of the palace, where he had the care given him of all the foreign curious animals, which the Vice-roy entertained chiefly for the amuſement of his daughter.

Lioſua,

Lioſua, the only daughter and ſole delight of this wiſe and tender parent, was now ten years of age. She had loſt her mother, a Princeſs of the Imperial line of *Ming*, in her earlieſt infancy. All the ſoft ſenſations of *Liewang*'s heart were now centered in his affection towards this amiable child. Her form was of exquiſite beauty, and the qualities of her mind fully accompliſhed the moſt ſanguine wiſhes of her intelligent father.—Mildneſs, generoſity, filial duty were combined with the ſprightlieſt wit, and the moſt lively and comprehenſive underſtanding. She cultivated the ſciences of her country, and committed to her memory the wiſe precepts of the old ſages, the Demi-gods,

who

who firſt brought order, and eſtabliſhed wholeſome laws among mankind *.

The few *Mongalians* who had eſcaped the general havock, carried the heavy news of their diſaſter to the *Ulanian* mountains. The ſad *Timurtaſh* could not but conclude, from the deſcription of the brave youth who had been loſt in the dreadful carnage, that his valiant ſon was now no more. *Uſong* had no way to acquaint his parents with his eſcape, and preſent ſituation. An intercourſe with the legitimate heir of *Iwen* would have expoſed both him and the meſſenger to certain death. The young prince ſubdued his ſpirit to

* *Yao, Shung, Yu, Wuwang, Wenwang.*

the

the fate he was now reduced to. The natural vivacity of his temper contributed to ſupport the dignity of his mind in his low condition; and his curioſity found an ample field for entertainment in the variety of flowers and animals it was now his buſineſs to look after.—But fortune did not confine him long to that humble ſtation.

An extenſive garden lay contiguous to the palace of the Vice-roy.—Copious ſtreams of water came guſhing from a neighbouring eminence*; ſome of which being collected in large baſons, formed ſeveral wide expanded ſheets, the peace-

* The gardens in *China* are chiefly laid out in this manner.

ful

ful habitations of various uncommon fiſhes, and of curious aquatic birds, whoſe variegated plumes and ſportive flutterings gaily animated the limpid ſurface: and ſome, being left to their ſpontaneous courſe, were ſeen to glide, ſoft-murmuring, through the woodland grounds; where a pleaſing variety of trees diſplayed their different hues, here ſingle, there in cluſters, and yonder in a regular ſucceſſion of equal rows.—At the further end of a flowery dale, ſurrounded by verdant hills, and pleaſantly irrigated by a clear winding brook, was raiſed an artificial rock, the work of many hands and many years. A ſecret paſſage, branching into various intricate meanders, led through the

rock

rock into an upper garden. This ſecond garden was terminated by a thickſet grove, which, though impervious to the eye, admitted of a gloomy narrow path that led to the temple on the ſummit of the eminence.

One of the ponds in the garden near *Lioſua*'s apartment was ſtocked with gold-fiſh, which ſhe had taught to feed from her own hand. Her gentle innocence took pleaſure in providing for the happineſs even of the dumb creation, which knows not how to thank. She was one day buſied in this benevolent ſport of her infant tenderneſs, when, leaning too far over the brink, her foot ſlipped, and ſhe was inſtantly abſorbed by the ambient waters.

waters. Her women ſhrieked, and haſtened to the fatal pool with all the ſpeed the crippled feet of *Chineſe* females would allow; but too late would have been their tardy aſſiſtance, had *Uſong* not prevented them.

Neither he, nor any man, was permitted to enter this ſequeſtered garden, which was ſolely appropriated for the entertainment of the young princeſs: but a ſtrayed pheaſant, whoſe golden feathers betrayed his bounding ſteps in an adjacent bower, having drawn *Uſong*, who was in queſt of him, towards that part of the garden, he heard the cries of the women.—His youthful ardour admitted of no reflexion: he threw himſelf over the intervening fences, flew

headlong into the pond; and, in an inſtant, brought the reſcued lady to the ſhore.

She was inſenſible, and *Uſong*, in order to raiſe her above the water, held her in his arms. He ſaw, with admiration, her languiſhing, half-extinguiſhed eyes; and the enchanting ſweetneſs, which even the terrors of death had not effaced from her mild and graceful countenance.—At length ſhe ſighed: her deliverer was the firſt object that ſtruck her reviving ſenſes: ſhe threw the kindeſt glances upon him, and thanked him, with a modeſt diffidence that ſpread a conſcious redneſs on her pallid cheeks. *Uſong* ſurrendered her to her joyful maids, and haſtened out

of

of the garden; for he knew the manners of the country, and the jealous ſeverity the laws of the *Chineſe* preſcribe to the education of their daughters.

The young lady was carried into her room, and reſtored to the arms of her anguiſhed parent. *Liewang* reſpectfully aſſerted the eſtabliſhed manners; but his ſoul was too enlarged to puniſh the tranſgreſſion a ſtranger had committed in attempting, at the peril of his own life, to ſave the deareſt object on which depended the happineſs of the Vice-roy. He ſent for *Uſong*: "Young "ſtranger," ſaid he, "thou haſt laid me "under infinite obligations; how can I "reward thee?"

Uſong

Uſong looked up with the noble calmneſs that beſpeaks an illuſtrious birth, and pauſed awhile.—The ſweets of liberty, the ſatisfaction of his parents, and on the other hand, the great advantage of being able to perfect himſelf in the ſuperior knowledge of the *Chineſe*, ſtruck equally his lively fancy: the charming image of the young princeſs came in unheeded, and turned the ſcale. "Venerable Sir," ſaid he, "I "am a ſtranger newly initiated in the "wiſdom of this land: I am young. "Grant that I may be faithfully inſtruct-"ed in the laws, the manners, and pro-"found learning of a country, which, "for many ages, has been eſteemed the "ſeat of order, and the center of pub-"lic happineſs."

The many advantages which the wealthy, the populous, the fertile, and well cultivated, the wiſe and learned empire of *China*, enjoyed over his own ſavage country, had not eſcaped the notice of the obſervant youth. He perceived that his brave *Mongalians* were yet untainted by the fatal arts of luxury, and that their unpoliſhed innocence was the pure work of nature. He was convinced that their barbarity proceeded merely from their want of uſeful knowledge and of wholeſome inſtitutions; and that if a wiſe legiſlator, who knew how to avail himſelf of the many excellent qualities that lay concealed under the coarſe ſurface of this precious gem, ſhould once attempt the glorious enterprize, he would find them

them ſuſceptible of every improvement that could contribute to render them a great and proſperous nation. "And "may not I be this bleſſed inſtrument "of my people's happineſs," ſaid his benevolent heart, in a language that needs no words, nor ſpace of time to feel and ſpeak unutterable things.

"Wiſdom is thy requeſt, young "ſtranger," anſwered the Vice-roy, "thou ſhalt obtain it. Henceforth be "free; I will provide for thy inſtruc-"tion."

The munificence of the Vice-roy extended to the faithful *Scherin:* he was ſet at liberty, that no wiſh of the favoured *Uſong* ſhould remain unſatisfied.

The young prince was intently aſſiduous to profit by the excellent maſters the *Zongtu* had aſſigned him. He copiouſly imbibed the wiſdom of the old ſovereigns of *China:* the equity of thoſe princes, their endeavours to promote the welfare of their people, their abhorrence of ſelfiſh views, their ſpirit of order and propriety, filled his warm boſom with an heroic emulation. "Thus had I done; ſo ſhould I have "thought," ſaid he: nothing that is good ſeemed arduous. He was not yet apprized of the many difficulties and diſappointments the benevolent have to encounter, when they endeavour to do good.

Although

Although the cuſtoms of *China* debarred *Uſong* from the ſight of the amiable *Lioſua*, ſhe was yet the deareſt object of his thoughts—He contrived various means to approach her; and all the maids, who cheriſhed him as the happy means by which the life of their adored miſtreſs had been preſerved, gladly contributed to facilitate the intercourſe. He frequently gathered, in the neighbouring mountains, or in the gardens of the rich, uncommon flowers, or blooming *Nipponian* ſhrubs, which he ſent to the fair one: ſometimes, he preſented her with the gayeſt of the motly feathered tribe, which his *Scythian* education had taught him to enſnare: at other times, he would convey to her copies of new invented

verſes, which his maſters taught him to compoſe: he was apprized of her birth-day, which was celebrated in the palace, and ſecretly fixed to a pyramid in the lady's garden, ſome lines of poetry, in which he expreſſed his envy of *Ming*'s * happineſs under whom the Phœnix had been born. The damſel ſmiled, and received whatever came from *Uſong* with youthful innocence and friendly gratitude.

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* The Imperial line of the race of *Zengis* was named *Iwen*; that of *Hongwu*, which governed down to the preſent Imperial family, was ſtiled *Ming*. The *Chineſe* have alſo their fabulous *Fanghoang*, a Phœnix, of whom they believe, that he only appears during the reign of a fortunate ſovereign.

Theſe

Theſe pleaſing ſolicitudes did not, however, ſoften the manly ſoul of the ſon of *Timurtaſh*. He remembered that he was born to provide for the welfare of a nation. He conſtantly attended the audience of the Vice-roy. He admired the experienced wiſdom, which in judicial matters points out at once and ſolves the ambiguous knot, that frequently enſnares the cleareſt truths, and furniſhes a clew to lead through the moſt intricate mazes. He examined minutely the cautious regulations by which *Liewang* prevented a ſcarcity of neceſſaries. He conſidered attentively the prudence of the *Zongtu*, which, poiſing in equal ſcales the labourer's due, and the advantage of the buyer, knew equally how to reward the

toils of the husbandman, and to furnish the poor mechanic with food and raiment at reasonable prices. *Usong* was sensible, that he could not always frequent this best of schools; he hastened therefore to enlighten his understanding by the lucid rays the wisdom of the Vice-roy so plentifully emitted.

But his fiery youth did not allow him to keep his passion long concealed. He had now spent two years at *Singan*, when his assiduous endeavours to please the young princess began to alarm the discreetest of her women. He had presumed to set his foot in the lady's garden, which to him was a forbidden sanctuary: he was never at a loss for pretences to excuse his daring rashness.

The

The flowers he ſent her, often concealed verſes, whoſe general expreſſions always retained ſome diſtinguiſhing marks, that could be applied only to the young beauty he adored.—The proofs of his paſſion ſhone forth in the moſt glaring light: even the places *Lioſua* honoured with her touch, he conſecrated with tender and emphatic emblems.

The women, at length, thought it their duty to acquaint the Vice-roy with the indiſcretion of the ſtranger. The prudent father pondered maturely what his honour, and the cuſtoms of the country required; and alſo what the amiable qualities, and happy ſervices of the young *Scythian* had merited at his hands. He ordered the

ſon

ſon of *Timurtaſh* before him, and thus addreſſed him—" Young man, the ſon " of the ſerpent woed the daughter of " the dragon; but the dragon anſwered, " where are thy wings, ſon of the ſer- " pent?" The remembrance of *Oguz* and of *Zengis*, the glory of *Kublai**, and the ſplendor of his whole race, ſtruck ſuddenly the mind of the young prince. " The ſon of the ſer- " pent had wings," replied *Uſong* with a modeſt aſſurance, " but he concealed " them."

The anſwer diſpleaſed the grave *Zongtu*. " Since the ſtranger muſt be

* The firſt *Chineſe* emperor of the race of *Iwen*.

" informed,"

" informed," returned he ſternly, " let " him remember that the daughters of the " illuſtrious *Mings* are not born to ſpend " their days in humble *Scythian* tents. Let " *Uſong* now confeſs his error, and take " heed, leſt his unruly paſſions deprive " him of the advantage he enjoys " among us, of learning the laws and " manners of this country, and there- " by improving in wiſdom and in " knowledge."—Exceedingly was the youth enflamed at this reproof: he tore aſunder his upper garment, and expoſed to view the yellow girdle, the diſtinctive mark of the Imperial race, which he had never depoſited. He ſtood indignant: the majeſty of an injured ſon of emperors ſurrounded him. " Surely the ſon of *Iwen*, the offſpring

" of

" of *Zengis*, may be compared with " *Ming*. Now welcome death, thy re- " buke far exceeds the bitterneſs of " death."

The friendſhip which *Liewang* entertained for the youth took the alarm at this dangerous avowal; but he cautiouſly abſtained from haſty meaſures. He ordered the incenſed *Uſong* to be ſecured in the palace, and to be kindly treated and carefully attended. The following day the prince was once more brought before him. He told him with the grave aſpect the *Chineſe* ſtateſmen always aſſume, and which often ſupplies their want of real wiſdom. " The young ſtranger muſt quit " the empire: I ſhould forfeit my alle- " giance

" giance to the ſon of Heaven * was I
" to protect him. Neither may he be
" allowed to return to his native coun-
" try :— fate has decreed the downfal
" of the *Iwens*.—But if he will engage
" to ſpend his days in a far diſtant
" country, near the remoteſt bounda-
" ries of the earth, the ſeeds of wiſdom
" that are lodged in him, may yet ar-
" rive at due maturity, and yield
" abundant fruit, in ſome other auſpi-
" cious land."

" That land ſhall pleaſe me moſt that
" lies fartheſt remote from *Ming*'s
" uſurped throne," returned the prince with a keenneſs worthy of a *Zengide*.

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* The emperor.

Liewang

Liewang diſmiſſed the youth, and wrote without delay to the Vice-roy of *Quangtſhew* *. "A ſtranger, for "urgent reaſons, is baniſhed the em- "pire; he has given proofs of a virtu- "ous diſpoſition: the *Zongtu* † is there- "fore earneſtly deſired to ſhip him off "for ſome remote weſtern country, "and to furniſh him with the neceſ- "ſaries *Liewang* will tranſmit, for his "ſubſiſtance and accommodation."

Uſong felt now the anguiſh of being doomed to leave his dear *Lioſua* for ever. His fervid youth prompted him to attempt a laſt farewell. Both he and

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* The province of the *Europeans*.

† A Vice-roy of two provinces.

Scherin watched the inſtant, when the blooming fair followed her wonted ſports in the garden. *Uſong* found an opportunity to throw himſelf at her feet, near the very pond out of which he had delivered her. "Daughter of heaven*," ſaid he, "'tis *Uſong*'s virtue, not his "birth, that is unworthy of thee.—May "the Almighty *Tien* † reward thy ex- "cellent perfections with his choiceſt "bleſſings: may he grant thee an huſ- "band endowed with ſuch an heart as "mine, and with merits equal to thy "exalted virtues." Silent, he fell pro-

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* As being deſcended from the ſons of heaven, Emperors.

† God.

ſtrate,

ſtrate, and the firſt tears ſtole trickling from his glowing eyes.

Lioſua, though tenderly affected, remembered the ſevere reſtrictions of the *Chineſe* cuſtoms. She withdrew, and retiring ſaid, "*Uſong* is a ſtranger, un- "acquainted with our manners: this in- "fringement muſt be pardoned." But ſhe could not ſuppreſs the anxiety that filled her tender boſom on being thus for ever parted from an amiable prince, who, on that very ſpot, had once expoſed his own life to reſcue her's. She turned once more, as ſhe ſlowly approached her women; and the tender, though modeſt glance ſhe threw upon the anguiſhed prince, plainly confeſſed that ſhe was by no means pleaſed with loſing him.

Uſong

Uſong was no ſtranger to the language the feeling heart is taught by nature: he underſtood the charming *Lioſua*, and ſtarting up, half enraptured and half deſpairing, haſtened to the neighbouring grove.

The appointed day arrived, when *Uſong* and his friend were to depart—He found at *Quangtſhew* great ſtores of gold, of ſilks, and other curious works of the ingenious arts of *China*; the writings of *Shuking*, and the five ſacred books of the old ſages were alſo among the gifts of *Liewang*: in one of theſe he found a letter from the Vice-roy.

" Now that I am never more to be-

" hold the face of the generous *Uſong*,
" let me exhort him, as a father ex-
" horts his ſon, who quits his arms
" never to return, ſtedfaſtly to per-
" ſevere in the delightful paths of vir-
" tue and of wiſdom. *Uſong* has talents,
" which may render him an uſeful
" prince—Let him cultivate thoſe gifts
" of nature; and he may hope, one
" day, to become the happy inſtrument
" of heaven's unbounded goodneſs."

The prince, with grateful ſadneſs, preſſed to his lips this laſt and kind bequeſt of a worthy benefactor, who was his *Lioſua*'s father. The voyage was ſucceſsful; and the merchant landed him and his rich ſtores at *Atſhin*, the moſt diſtant port that is frequented by *Chineſe*

Chineſe traders. In the private confinement of a ſhip's ſolitude the young prince meditated a plan for his future life.—He reſolved to ſeek countries where he might improve and perfect his knowledge; ſtates where wiſdom flouriſhed, and where he might ſtudy the forms of government that are beſt calculated for the happineſs of the ſubjects. His maſters at *Singan*, the books of the ancients, and above all the bright example of *Liewang*, had inſpired him with the glorious deſire of enabling himſelf effectually to labour, one day, for the happineſs of mankind. This, and the lovely image of his diſcreet, his virtuous *Lioſua*, were the only objects that harboured in his mind, and fired his boſom.

Atſhin ſtood then under a martial and cruel king. *Uſong* had, during his abode in *China*, been fondly prepoſſeſſed in favour of that indulgent humanity, which protects the life of every individual, even againſt the avenging laws, unleſs he be found a nuiſance to his fellow ſubjects. Here he daily ſaw ſome wretched victims, either caſt fore elephants, or diſpatched by bloody ſabres, without trial, without defence, without conviction, without a ſentence, but the capricious will of their ferocious ſovereign, and frequently without a guilt but his diſpleaſure — "Thus would a tyger go-"vern," ſaid he, "was heaven to place "a tyger on the throne."

Though

Though the country bore a great reſemblance to *China*, yet was it improved by none of the ornaments that embelliſh that noble empire. *Uſong* ſaw no canals, cut by human induſtry, to facilitate the inland navigation; no cultivated mountains, propped by a ſucceſſion of winding ſteps and craggy terraſſes; no buildings arguing the wealth of the inhabitants; no ſeminaries of learning; nothing appeared but woods and huts, in which half-naked ſlaves crouched trembling.

Uſong found in the houſe of the *Chineſe* merchant, with whom the maſter of the ſhip had left him, a *Mollah*, one of the *Hadſhis*,* who are reputed ſaints. He

* The name of thoſe who have performed a pilgrimage to *Mecca*.

was returned from a journey to *Mecca* and knew ſomething of the *Chineſe* language. The mere outward appearance of the young prince pleaded ſtrongly in his favour, and was ſure of conciliating the affection of every heart. The *Mollah* in diſcourſe with him, underſtood that he was in ſearch of a land where the people are happy, and where virtue predominates. "Young man," ſaid he, "all the eaſtern nations labour "under the yoke of arbitrary rulers. "Far towards the weſt is a proſpe-"rous country, not unlike thine own "*China* in many reſpects, but more re-"nowned in arms —*Miſr* * is its name.

* The eaſtern name of *Egypt*.

"—Like

" —Like *Taiſing*, it is cut through by
" numberleſs canals: a prolific ſtream
" deſcends from the moſt ſouthern re-
" gions, which on ſtated days fills thoſe
" canals, and, overflowing the whole
" country, fertilizes the arid ſoil. On
" its retreat, a garden luxuriant and
" unbounded riſes to the delighted
" view: There bounteous nature pays
" thirtyfold the plowman's eaſy labour;
" there lofty palm-trees decorate the
" groves; there a number of ſecure
" and ſpacious harbours are daily filled
" with the rich manufactures of all
" the eaſtern countries, and the induſ-
" trious works of the nations dwelling
" nearer the ſetting ſun.

" But this happy *Miſr* boaſts alſo
" of greater bleſſings. Merit alone,
" with them, leads men to the rank
" of princes, and raiſes princes to the
" throne. The kingdom is equally
" divided under four and twenty princes,
" none ſucceed their fathers, they are
" all ſons of their own deeds. One of
" them, on whom ſuperior merit has
" fixed the choice, aſcends the throne;
" he is always a ſtranger, and com-
" monly a ſlave*, who by obedience

* This has been denied; but it is certain that in *Uſong*'s times, and till the overthrow of the reign of the *Mamalukes*, none but ſlaves were placed upon the throne. The *Oſmans* have obſerved the ſame rule to this day, in naming the Beys who govern under the Paſhaws: *Ali Bey*, the preſent Sultan, was once a ſlave.

" and

" and want has been compelled to
" exert his talents, and whom buſineſs
" itſelf hath formed to buſineſs.—
" *Miſr* is the ſeat of merit, and the
" temple of rewarded virtue."

Uſong reliſhed this account of the *Mollah:* as ſoon as the ſeaſon permitted he embarked for *Dſhidda.* Several *Mahomedans* who had undertaken a pilgrimage to *Mecca* accompanied him; and his friend the *Mollah*, being deſirous of paying a ſecond homage to the tomb of his Prophet, was of the number. *Uſong* availed himſelf of the leiſure of a tedious voyage to acquire ſome knowledge in the *Arabian* language, in which the *Mollah* took pains to inſtruct him. He read the *Koran* with

ſome

ſome ſatisfaction. Nature's own light pointed out to him the abſurdity of more than one God; but he found that the *Chineſe* ſages ſpoke of this only God in too relaxed, too ſtrange and bold a manner. "*Tien*," ſaid *Uſong*, "is the God only of the emperor* "and of the empire; but here I "find a God, who is my God, the "God of every being." The miracles however, of which he had never heard the name in *China*, and which, being profuſely interſperſed in the doctrine of the *Bonzes* were held in deteſtation by the ſages, prevented *Uſong* giving a full belief to the *Koran*.

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* The emperor alone offers ſacrifices to *Tien*.

At

At *Dſhidda* he parted from his friend the *Mollah*, and proceeded by land to *Suez*. He arrived at *Alkahirah* * at the very time when the Sultan, with all the magnificence of an opulent monarch, iſſued the order for opening the canal that admits the waters of the *Nile*—— The princes and leaders of the *Circaſſian* ſoldiery appeared in the moſt ſplendid attire, and upon the ſtateſieſt *Arabian* horſes. All *Egypt* was aſſembled at this great and ſolemn anniverſary; and the univerſal joy that ſat viſible on every countenance, gave riſe to a variety of feſtive games. *Uſong* was ſtruck with admiration at the majeſtic order one ſingle man ſent forth,

* *Cairo.*

to

to an whole empire, to *become fertile*: he believed, a while, the great things he had heard the *Mollah* relate of this renowned country.

But, no ſooner had he ſeen the confuſion and licentiouſneſs that prevailed at *Alkahirah*; no ſooner had he compared the predominant wantonneſs of *Egypt* with the ſtrict manners of *China*, and obſerved the inſolence of the *Circaſſians*, and their cruelty towards all the other ſubjects, whom they treated as the moſt abject ſlaves; no ſooner was he informed of the many factions and ſeditions, that were excited even by the reigning *Mamalukes*; and how frequently the *Bey* was treacherouſly aſſailed and murdered by ſome ſucceſsful rival; no

ſooner

ſooner had he witneſſed the general dereliction of the laws, and found, that even theft was countenanced by their vicious cuſtoms, and that nothing controuled the arbitrary will of men in power, but he found cauſe to check his admiration: — the noble ſoul of *Uſong* was filled with ſorrow: "Is the "empire of *Ming* the only land of wiſ- "dom?" ſaid his honeſt heart, and deeply ſighed.

Nor had he been long in *Miſr*, before he found that violence, and not merit, raiſed to the higheſt ranks and fortune; and that the throne fell to the ſhare of thoſe princes only, whoſe ſabres had ſhed, moſt plentifully, the blood of their competitors. *Uſong*, whoſe ſoul had

had been formed in *China* to a love of juſtice and humanity, could no longer contain his juſt abhorrence of a land, that cheriſhed neither of thoſe virtues.

Mean while, he took pleaſure in converſing with the many ſtrangers, the extenſive trade of *Egypt* collected from all parts. He enquired among them, whether more to the weſt, he might hope to find a land, where wiſdom triumphed and virtue was rewarded. He frequently reſorted to the halls where merchants from all countries aſſembled to partake of the new-invented liquor, which was much valued for its refreſhing qualities. There he met, and formed an acquaintance with a *Venetian* nobleman, who had accompanied

his

his uncle, the ambaſſador from that republic, to *Alkahirah*—*Catharin Zeno* was his name.

Uſong's manner was engaging, and the diſtance he came from excited curioſity:—a native of *China*, for ſuch he was then reputed, was looked upon, by an *European*, as an uncommon prodigy. His converſation with *Zeno* ſoon turned upon the cuſtoms and conſtitutions of the weſtern ſtates. "The "noble *Zeno*," ſaid he in the *Arabian* tongue, "is ſurely of a country where "learning flouriſhes, and the dignity of "ſound morals is revered; ſure, there "are nations that are unjuſtly branded "with the reputation of coarſe Barba-"rians"—*Zeno* ſmiled—"We amply

"retaliate

" retaliate the injuſtice of the *Orientals*,
" when they tax us with being a bar-
" barous people. One of my contry-
" men (*Mark Paul*) has given us ſome
" account of the grandeur and wiſdom
" of *Kathai*; but, in general, the
" *Europeans* conſider themſelves as the
" only civilized nations: and indeed,
" had *Uſong* ſeen, and did he under-
" ſtand the laws, the regulations, the
" religious worſhip, the polite arts, the
" military diſcipline of *Venice*, he would
" confeſs, that our improvements are,
" at leaſt ſuperior to thoſe of the
" country we now inhabit."

Uſong's inquiſitive curioſity was rouſ-
ed by this account of *Zeno*'s native
city; and he reciprocally entertained

his new acquaintance with informations concerning *China*. The goods that daily arrived at *Alexandria* from that great commercial city, plainly indicated the flouriſhing ſtate of the arts among them: their ſhips were better built, their ſeamen more expert, than thoſe of *China*; and all their decorations and implements beſpoke a refined taſte, and a fertile imagination. The year of *Zeno*'s uncle being expired, *Uſong* was eaſily perſuaded to accompany the two nobles to *Venice*. He applied, with his uſual eagerneſs, to the ſtudy of the *Italian* language and writing; a voyage, greatly protracted by frequent calms, afforded him leiſure to make great progreſs in both—and he was not long in *Venice*, before he was able to explain

his thoughts with ſome eaſe and propriety.

That proud city was then at the higheſt pitch of its proſperity. Never had *Tyrus* attained to ſuch a ſuperiority in trade. The republic, under the duke *Thomas Mocenigo*, poſſeſſed, not long before *Uſong*'s arrival, upwards of three thouſand ſhips manned by thirty-ſix thouſand ſailors — Her treaſures were immenſe — The value of the goods yearly exported amounted to ten millions in gold coin. The freight alone brought in two millions. The whole trade of *India* was carried on by the *Venetians* through *Alexandria*,—and *Venice* was the ſtaple of all the weſtern nations.

Uſong

Uſong confeſſed his admiration, when he ſaw the high towers of *Venice* riſing gradually out of the ſurging billows. — He had, indeed, ſeen larger towns in *China*; but the bare idea of a capital, the miſtreſs of whole kingdoms, erected in the midſt of the floods, appeared to him more than human — He was ſtruck at the ſolidity of their ſtone edifices, the magnificence of their churches, the profuſion of ſtores in their arſenals: in their religious worſhip there appeared more decency and devotion, than in the childiſh idolatry of the *Bonzes*, and the luke-warm homage of the ancient ſages.

But nothing perplexed the young prince ſo much as the *Venetian* form of

government. Even the idea of a commonwealth had never exiſted in deſpotic *China*: though they believed in many gods, yet to obey more than one king they thought impracticable.—— That ſeveral nobles ſhould equally ſhare among themſelves the ſupreme authority, and yet equally depend upon each other; that harmony ſhould be maintained among them; that their councils ſhould be ſecret and unanimous, their orders timely and vigorous; all this appeared to the aſtoniſhed prince as an aerial apparition, or at beſt, a tale told of another world. His ſurprize increaſed when he heard that all the weſtern nations had once been free, and governed by magiſtrates they choſe themſelves; he could not comprehend,

whence

whence thoſe ſame nations had derived a conſtitution unknown in every other part of the world—Here he ſaw a people divided into two bodies; the weakeſt ſettled at the helm; and the numerous multitude quietly obeying, without ever aſpiring to ſhare in the dominion.

Uſong, though ſtrongly prejudiced againſt the government of nobles, found yet at *Venice*, that it was perfectly conſiſtent with the public welfare.—Here the people ſeemed rich, dwelt in convenient houſes, and were by no means harraſſed by exceſſive labour. The arts too were no leſs flouriſhing than in *China*; they plentifully ſupplied all ne-

ceſſaries and conveniencies. The nobles exerted their authority with moderation: they were not exempted from a ſtrict obedience to the laws; and no prerogatives could ſcreen them from condign puniſhment, if ever they made themſelves obnoxious — He ſaw no longer the ſervile homage men baſely pay to other men in *China*. The ſcourge was not the ſcepter of the laws.

The prince was ſoon aware, that the military regulations at *Venice* were far ſuperior to thoſe of the boaſted empire of *Ming*. He obſerved, that better order, greater dexterity, and a ſtricter diſcipline, prevailed among them. Here he became firſt acquainted with an incentive unknown to the eaſtern ſoldiery, *the laws of honour*. —He found that the

the *Europeans* avoided ſhame more than moſt certain death; and that flying from an enemy was, by moſt of them, eſteemed one of the greateſt crimes.

He was informed that the calamity ſo frequent and ſo dreadful in *China*, a famine, ſeldom afflicted the *Venetians*: that no change had happened in their government during many centuries: that the reigning families in *Europe* were ſometimes extinct, but that they ſeldom apprehended a revolution; whereas in *China*, a mean inſurgent, a rebellious *Tſhu*, had expelled the Imperial race, and left the throne of *Zengis* and of *Kublai* to his own ſons, born in the humbleſt plebeian obſcurity.

No ſooner was *Uſong* convinced that the ſeeds of public felicity, the baſis of peace and ſecurity, and a noble impulſe that rouſes men to glorious deeds, really exiſted in the very manners, laws, and maxims of the *Europeans*, but he applied all his diligence to be thoroughly acquainted with the means from which thoſe nations derive ſuch peculiar advantages.

Zeno reminded his inquiſitive friend, that the deſpotic governments in the eaſt were calculated to debaſe the minds of the people. "When the glory of "every action is attributed ſolely to "the prince; when the ſovereign, by "a ſingle nod, can caſt a ſubject from "the higheſt ſtation into the duſt; when

igno-

" ignominious puniſhments are wan-
" tonly inflicted; then, all generous
" emulation is extinguiſhed, and the
" deſire of riſing by meritorious actions
" is totally ſuppreſſed—Exclude a peo-
" ple from the road to fame, and they
" will ſoon become callous to the yoke:
" having nothing to hope for, and
" every thing to fear, they muſt learn to
" court the favour of the great by
" ſervile cringing and fawning adula-
" tion. Honour, which they now de-
" ſpair of, will yield to ſordid gain,
" which they are allowed to covet;
" and to ſenſual pleaſures, which they
" purchaſe at a dear and ſhameful rate.

" Thus in the eaſtern countries, a
" rigid government blunts the refined
" ſenſa-

" ſenſations, that ought to elevate the
" hearts of the people. The firſt em-
" perors of *China* ſought after virtuous
" ſubjects, and invited them to draw
" near unto the throne: they have been
" known to exclude their own ſons
" from the ſucceſſion, and to reſign
" the ſcepter into the hands of the
" worthieſt: long were they guided by
" the free advice of their ſubjects:
" oft did they ingenuouſly confeſs
" their errors: and always left to their
" faithful ſervants the credit of hav-
" ing, by their prudent councils, chiefly
" contributed towards the nobleſt ac-
" tions of the prince. But *China* alſo
" has now loſt theſe valuable bleſſings:
" the former ſimplicity of their ſove-
" reigns has been corrupted by inſidi-

" ous

" ous flatterers." *Uſong* could not deny it — He knew that the diſtribution of rewards depended chiefly upon a ſet of worthleſs eunuchs: that the irregularities and oppreſſions of the *Mandarins* were winked at: that the people laboured under an heavy yoke—. " The ſhin-
" ing examples of virtuous emperors," continued *Zeno*, " the perſuaſive elo-
" quence of the old ſages, may ſtill,
" at times, bring over the heart of a
" prince, and convince him, that his
" real ſatisfaction is inſeparably con-
" nected with the happineſs of his peo-
" ple.—But the harm is done: the hearts
" of the people are ſunk into ſordid
" baſeneſs: they are now incapable of
" generous ſenſations.

" An

" An equality of individuals has ſub-
" ſiſted much longer among the *Euro-*
" *peans.* Their kings were debarred
" all violent proceedings againſt the
" people; they were choſen from among
" the moſt experienced warriors and
" beſt ſportſmen: and, as ſuch, appoint-
" ed to lead their hoſtile expeditions.
" The merit of every glorious action
" was the ſecure property of the virtu-
" ous performers: various encourage-
" ments, and eſpecially the loud and ani-
" mating applauſe of the whole nation,
" rewarded each patriotic effort, whilſt
" an envious deſpotic ſovereign arro-
" gates every praiſe, as an incenſe due
" to the gods only, and to himſelf—
" Free nations are ſeldom expoſed to
" diſgracing penalties, and therefore

" highly

" highly reſent the leaſt inſult offered
" to their honour—they never heſitate
" to prefer death to the miſery of living
" with a ſtain upon their tender reputa-
" tions.

" But whence aroſe republican go-
" vernments in the *European* ſtates,
" and deſpotic monarchies in *Aſia?*"

Zeno replied; " as far as my know-
" ledge in hiſtory extends, we have no
" accounts of either princes or magi-
" ſtrates in thoſe remote and barren
" countries, where the ſcarcity of neceſ-
" ſaries compels the inhabitants to
" live widely diſperſed. No rulers of
" any ſort have ever been traced
" among the hardened people, who

" live

" live under the northern pole, under
" a moſt rigorous ſky, on a ſoil of
" rocks and ice, and on the ſcanty
" ſuſtenance afforded them by the
" tempeſtuous ſeas— they live without
" laws, and without judicial ſanction.
" As they have few contentions, as
" they have nothing in common, they
" live, like the other animals, whom
" they reſemble in moſt reſpects, with-
" out ſociety, and without any form
" of government.

" In the cold countries, where game
" abounds, the inhabitants draw nearer
" to each other: the fear of rapa-
" cious animals forces them to ſeek ſe-
" curity in a ſocial life.—Thoſe nations
" alſo are free, and all the conſtituent
" members

" members of equal rank. Their ſtub-
" born nature, enured to every hardſhip,
" can neither be ſhocked by fear, nor
" ſubdued by violence: they ſcorn to
" yield their ſacred right to freedom
" to any audacious tyrant: a leader
" was occaſionally inveſted with a
" limited authority, which formerly
" ſubſided with the neceſſity — and
" theſe are the grounds upon which
" all *European* governments are origi-
" nally founded.

" In the mildeſt climates, where a
" few acres ſuffice to maintain whole
" families, men crowded together and
" founded the firſt cities—the value
" of property was there conſiderable—
" the rivality between the inhabitants,

" and

" and between each neighbouring city,
" frequent and pernicious—the paſ-
" ſions prevailed in thoſe warm regions,
" and led to frequent miſdemeanors—
" envy and revenge tore aſunder the
" bands of ſociety, and a coercive au-
" thority, to curb their fury, was found
" indiſpenſably neceſſary. There, kings
" were firſt created, who, as they
" were to check the ſudden evils that
" ariſe from raging fits of paſſion, were
" intruſted with a ſudden execution
" of power.—But being once armed
" with that ſupreme authority, they
" ſoon obtained an unlimited ſway over
" the feeble diſpoſitions of the eaſtern
" nations, whoſe narrow minds are
" awed by fear, and whoſe limbs are
" not invigorated, as thoſe of the
" northern

" northern people, who are inured to
" hardſhips by the keen air to which
" they are conſtantly expoſed, and the
" heavy toils on which depends their
" whole ſubſiſtence. There hereditary
" and arbitrary monarchies firſt aroſe;
" and the daſtard people, who never
" hear even of the name of liberty
" from their ſlaviſh fathers, give up
" their claims, and patiently ſubmit to
" the tyrannic yoke."

Uſong improved daily in the language of the country, and by that means facilitated a more extenſive information—He made ſeveral ſhort voyages on the *Adriatic Gulph*, and ſaw with pleaſure the eaſe and preciſion of the captains, in commanding their crews, and ſteer-

ing their ſhips—" Behold," ſaid he, " the ſource and neceſſity of implicit " obedience: it cannot be diſpenſed " with, where the leaſt delay in ex- " ecution may tend to the ſubverſion " of a ſociety."

He viewed the forces that *Venice* ſent out againſt the duke of *Milan*, and took the field with them as a volunteer —He was amazed at the ſuperiority of the *Europeans* over the *Chineſe* in the management of the artillery, the uſe of which they had but lately diſcovered. " This alſo," ſaid he to his friend, " muſt be attributed to liberty, and to " the incentives of honour—'Tis by " theſe the arts flouriſh and improve, " ſince every artiſt will endeavour to

" excel

" excel his equals. In *China*, the ſon
" confines himſelf to the ſkill of his
" father, and thinks it impoſſible to
" exceed the knowledge of his anceſ-
" tors: this prevents his making new
" diſcoveries; and he leaves the art to
" his ſon in the ſame degree of per-
" fection, in which he had received it
" from his father."

The even ranks in which the ſoldiers in *Europe* form themſelves; their order in ſtanding and in marching; their ſtrict care and diſcipline; their regular ſubordination, which deſcends in an uninterrupted gradation, from the chief commander down to the private man; their intrepidity in the moſt daring aſſaults, and in freely venturing on the

moſt dangerous enterprizes, filled the brave *Uſong* with rapturous ſurprize. His *Mongalians*, compared to theſe, appeared now as an herd of warlike animals, armed by the ſole hand of nature; and the *Chineſe* ſoldiery, as a multitude of recreant ſlaves, who indeed handle the beſt weapons, but whoſe ſouls are incapable of the leaſt ſpark of courage or military ſpirit.

Uſong found the interior policy, and the adminiſtration of juſtice at *Venice* no ways inferior to the *Chineſe*—"Honour," thought he, "deters theſe "judges from adopting the unjuſt pro-"ceedings, for which ſlander would "chaſtiſe them. In yonder empire, the

"tranſcendant

" tranſcendant virtue of a judge is the
" only ſecurity for the equity of his
" deciſions. *Liewang* was juſt; but
" ſeldom does heaven beſtow a *Lie-*
" *wang*, though it permits the daily op-
" preſſions of venal *Mandarins*."

At length he plainly underſtood, that, by ſubmitting all diſcuſſions to the determination of the plurality, a ſenate of nobles, equal in power and dignity, could preſerve the greateſt unanimity and order in their councils.—He perceived, that a ſuperior influence among a number of free collateral aſſociates, could only be obtained by a ſuperiority of parts; and that thouſands will never aſſent to the opinion of one, unleſs he can compel them by the force of his arguments, or allure them by the

charms of his perſuaſive eloquence. " This alſo muſt excite men to a con-
" ſtant purſuit after perfection, ſince it
" is the ſureſt path that leads, not only
" to honour, but alſo to a more uncom-
" mon degree of intereſt and power."

But *Zeno* himſelf confeſſed, not without ſorrow, that all theſe valuable advantages would inſtantly vaniſh, if ever the number of nobles ſhould conſiderably decreaſe. — " A commonwealth
" can only be proſperous, as long as
" its rulers are independent of each
" other, and connected by no other
" tie but the public welfare. In a nume-
" rous ſenate conſiſting of equal nobles,
" the ſmall connexions of families and
" friendſhip cannot be very dangerous:

" the

" the many independent members may
" eaſily defeat their influence. But when
" the number is ſmall, then may the
" aſcendant of a few, uniting for that
" purpoſe, eaſily bias the reſolutions
" of the whole; then may affinity
" of blood, affections, and partial views
" combine ſuch parties, as ſhall bid
" defiance to the remaining patriotic
" nobles; then may private intereſt
" prevail over the public welfare.—
" Oh! let me not," continued he with honeſt fervour, " let me not live to ſee
" the day, when a noble will dare to
" prefer any intereſt to the general in-
" tereſt of his country."

The *Scythian* prince read, examined, compared, and daily increaſed

in knowledge and underſtanding: but a war, in which the republic was involved againſt *Morad*, induced him to leave *Venice*.

George Caſtriot, heir of *Thomas* prince of *Epirus*, had, through his almoſt incredible valour, gained the favour of the ſultan.—*George* was an hero of matchleſs bravery and bodily vigor. Conſcious of his rights, he had abandoned *Morad* in a battle, and wreſted the victory from him. He obtained by force, from the keeper of the ſultan's ſeal, a decree, that the heir of *Epirus* ſhould be put in poſſeſſion of *Croya* his capital, and haſtened to ſee the order executed. He ſucceeded; but *Morad* preſſed hard upon him, with the ſuperior

power

power of his veteran forces: the *Jenjitſheries* were then already the terror of the nations—As a tempeſtuous cloud, which menaces from afar, but daily approaching threatens ſoon to break in violent flaſhes over our heads, and to pour forth a deſtructive deluge; ſo did the ſpreading power of the *Oſmans* alarm the republic. Prudence required that they ſhould divert the ſtorm from their frontiers. They ſent to the brave *Caſtriot* the aſſiſtance he demanded; and *Uſong* could not withſtand the deſire of ſerving under a champion, who had really atchieved as many heroic actions, as the fertile imaginations of the poets had ever invented.

The campaign was fierce and bloody; and the valiant arm of *Caſtriot* baffled all the advantages the *Oſman* could derive from his ſuperiority in numbers and experience. Two young *Venetians*, whoſe affections *Uſong* had acquired, not only by his liberality, but alſo by his engaging manners, followed him, and, together with the faithful *Scherin*, were ever after the companions of his travels, and of all his actions. *Uſong*, with the vehemence of youthful ardour, followed the prince of *Epirus* into the thickeſt of the battle, and felt his heart beat higheſt, when death ſurrounded him on every ſide—Once he aſſailed the *Sultan* himſelf with a fury, even the brave *Albanians* could not imitate —He was ſurrounded, and would have periſh-

ed

ed in the ſight of the ſultan, had not that monarch been as gracious, as he was victorious.

The valour and exquiſite form of the young *Zengide* * averted now, a ſecond time, the impending ſword from his devoted head——The ſultan's clemency ſpared the noble youth. After the battle, *Morad* ordered him into his preſence, and aſked him, why he had taken up arms againſt a ſovereign, who was chaſtiſing a rebellious ſubject? for *Uſong*'s features ſoon diſcovered that he was not born in *Europe*.

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* The deſcendant of *Zengis*, the great conqueror, known in the weſt by the name of *Jenghiz Chan*.

The

The prince bowed reſpectfully: "I "was born near the moſt diſtant boun- "daries of the eaſt; I travel to the re- "moteſt regions of the weſt, in ſearch "of wiſdom and of valour—and here "I find both united in my generous "conqueror."

Morad, whoſe heart was as benevolent, as his courage was undaunted, ſmiled at the youth, and aſked him, whether he was inclined to engage in the ſervice of a prince, whoſe qualities he approved? *Uſong* confeſſed ingenuouſly, that having met at *Venice* with the moſt hoſpitable treatment, he could not, without diſparaging his honour, draw his ſword againſt ſuch kind and valuable friends.

"Thou

"" Thou ſhalt not however diſturb
" the *Oſmans* any longer: I will return
" thee to thy native country — Me-
" thinks," continued *Morad* ſmiling,
" thou haſt made ſufficient progreſs in
" the art of war."

The ſultan * ſent to the *Venetian* chief, to demand the effects of *Uſong*, and ordered him to embark for *Eſcander* †, from whence he was to proceed on his journey to *Perſia*, by the way of *Halep*.

Uſong lamented his having loſt the preſent opportunity of viſiting ſome other *European* countries, and acquainting him-

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* *Amurath* the IId.

† *Alexandretto*.

ſelf

ſelf with the conſtitutions of thoſe ſtates that are governed by kings—*Scherin* brought him his treaſures, and both came by the way of *Eſcander*, to the populous *Halep*, that appears from afar riſing gradually upon its gentle acclivity.

The prince, during his ſhort ſtay in the camp of *Morad*, and among the *Oſmans*, reflected on the increaſing grandeur of that formidable empire. Six chiefs had raiſed the Turks from their former obſcurity to the poſſeſſion of all *Leſſer Aſia*, and of the eaſtern parts of *Europe*. The intrinſic greatneſs of their ſultans, who were moſtly brave and indefatigable generals, chiefly contributed to this rapid progreſs. *Morad* excelled

celled them all in the noble endowments of the ſoul: he was the mildeſt, the moſt generous of men, and ſat on the throne againſt the inclination of his pacific heart. *Morad*'s piety was fervent and ſincere: twice had he quitted the throne, that he might dedicate all his hours to the duties of religion; and twice had the united intreaties of the *Oſmans*, who deſpaired of victory if not led on by *Morad*, compelled him to reſume the ſway of nations——*Morad* poſſeſſed the calm intrepid courage, which ſtands unſhaken in the midſt of perils and alarms; which is capable not only of leading an hoſt into the fire of action, but alſo of keeping a conſtant inſpection over an whole army; of inſuring the iſſue of every battle by his omnipreſence;

fence; of availing himſelf of every advantage, and of providing, in the beſt manner, againſt the moſt imminent dangers.

The ſultans lived conſtantly in their camps: they were ſtrangers to the ſweets of an *Harem**, in which the eaſtern princes ſought their chief delight. The *Oſmans* honoured their prince, not only as their hereditary ſovereign, but chiefly as the moſt experienced and braveſt leader in the nation—Each ſultan had his ſons educated under his own eye; and taught them himſelf, as young undaunted lions, how to combat, and how to overcome.

* Seraglio.

But, far more formidable appeared to the contemplative *Uſong* the inſtitution of the *Jenjitſheries* †. The readieſt and moſt vigorous youths were choſen, and kept in conſtant training: they were prohibited marriage, and exempted from all the functions of a domeſtic life; and, even in peace, their chambers were no better than larger tents—Frequent victories had inſpired them with the pride that leads to repeated victories; they thought themſelves invincible, and could not therefore be vanquiſhed: they were the moſt expert among the nations of thoſe times in the uſe of the new-diſcovered fire-arms; nor was there any infantry

† Janizaries.

then capable of oppoſing them. The native valour of the weſtern ſoldiery could not reſiſt the fierce attacks of the *Jenjitſheries*; who were not occaſionally enliſted, and diſmiſſed as the *European* armies, but ſpent their whole lives in warlike exerciſes, and under their military banners. The unparalleled valour of a *Caſtriot*, and the innumerable multitude of *Timur*'s cavalry, had indeed made ſome impreſſion upon the *Oſmans*; but the uninterrupted diſcipline of the *Jenjitſheries* muſt, at the long-run, prevail over all the nations, who take up arms only in caſes of urgent neceſſity, and lay them aſide as ſoon as the danger exiſts no longer.

Uſong

Uſong intended to embark at *Baſra*, and to travel, through *Hindoſtan*, towards thoſe countries that were yet under the government of the *Zengides*. To the wiſeſt, or moſt valorous of thoſe, he reſolved to dedicate his ſervices—The reſt he ſubmitted to fate, whoſe decrees no human forecaſt can prevent, whoſe power no mortal can avoid.

He traverſed the great deſart that lies between *Halep* and *Baſra*, without quitting his arms. He viewed the lamentable ruins of the once ſtately *Palm City* *, in whoſe remains traces of the former magnificence of wealthy inhabitants, and melancholy proofs of the

* *Palmyra.*

barbarity of outrageous conquerors, appeared visibly united: troops of vagrant *Arabs* now pitched their tents among the venerable fragments of marble temples and triumphal arches. He crossed the sultry sands of the solitary *Arabia* in the night, and on the approaching break of day was gone to seek repose under a neighbouring cluster of palm-trees, when he perceived a venerable old man, accompanied by a comely youth, coming to the verge of the grove.

The sun had now raised its bright-dazzling orb over the eastern mountains of *Arabia*, when both the *Arabs* fell prostrate on the ground. The aged one with folded hands, and a tone of

voice

voice that expreſſed the moſt fervent emotions of his heart, pronounced theſe words *:

" Lord of all nations, of all hea-
" vens, of every age! again doſt thou
" ſend forth the glorious harbinger of
" thine unbounded goodneſs; again
" doſt thou manifeſt thy greatneſs by
" benefits innumerable and undeſerved.
" —'Tis thou, bright luſtre, far too
" radiant for our imperfect ſight, thou
" ſeat of goodneſs, giver of life, ſource
" of all bleſſings, and of every beauty;
" 'tis thou, reſplendent ſun, that art

* Of the zeal of the Mahomedans, in their prayers, ſee *Guy's Voy. litter. de la Grece* I. p. 416, and II.

" the pureſt emblem of thine immenſe
" creator. —— And thou, O gracious
" God! emit thy luminous beams, eter-
" nal ſun! enlighten our hearts, and
" penetrate the minds of mortal men,
" that they may gratefully attribute all
" their bleſſings to thy bounty infinite,
" and acknowledge eternity to be the
" ſole end of their exiſtence."

The *Emir*—for he was an *Arabian* prince, deſcended from *Ali*—was here interrupted by a ſudden clamour of ſeveral *Sonnite Bedwins*, " Die, infidel," cried the blind bigots, " thou, who " curſeſt the followers of the prophet*."

* The *Alids* curſe *Abubeker*, *Omar*, and *Othman* as unlawful ſucceſſors of *Mahomed*, who had deprived *Ali* of his juſt inheritance.

They

They ran with extended ſpears at the defenceleſs worſhippers. But *Uſong* felt the noble indignation of a magnanimous heart, at the ſight of an unmerited aſſaſſination. — He ſallied, with his brave companions, among the robbers: the moſt audacious fell, and the reſt fled diſmayed.

The pious *Emir* ſtretched forth his arms to his deliverer. "Bleſſed be the "Lord," ſaid he, "who hath endowed "ſo fair a ſhape with ſo ſublime a "ſoul." The youth, who was a ſon of the old *Alid*, fell at the hero's feet, and expreſſed his gratitude by artleſs thanks, and high extolling praiſes.

" Come to our tent," ſaid the hoary old man, " that I may bleſs thee, thou " noble inſtrument of God's abundant " goodneſs."—He went, and *Uſong* followed him into a valley, where the black tents of the tribe he governed, ſurrounded a clear refreſhing ſpring. Each morning ſaw the virtuous prince retiring into a ſilent ſolitude, and paying his reverent homage to his benign creator. His name was *Haſſan:* he had ſurvived all the vaſſals who had obeyed his father. All that the grateful liberality of the *Emir* could afford, he joyfully laid at the feet of his deliverer; but all *Uſong* accepted was a ſhort ſtay in the retired dwelling of his reſcued friend.

The

The heart of *Haſſan* overflowed with the praiſes of the Lord. " I ſhall ſoon " behold him," ſaid he, with holy raptures. " Even now doth this aſpir- " ing thought raiſe me to heavenly " manſions; earth ſinks beneath me. " Brave youth," continued he, " the " jocund ſpring of thy blooming years " may have, as yet, diverted thee from " forming a due acquaintance with thy " God: attend to the laſt words of a " dying friend; accept them as a re- " ward for thy great favour."

" Honour, wealth, ſenſual delights, are " but the toys of unexperienced children, " with which our bounteous father doth " indulge us as long as we are children; " but we ſhall not ever continue in " this

" this infant ſtate. On yonder ſide the
" grave another life awaits us, an immut-
" able, an everlaſting life; whoſe great
" concerns admit of no deluſive ſports,
" whoſe ſolemn dignity will baniſh the
" vain purſuit of all thoſe many bau-
" bles earthly princes covet. Thy fa-
" vour, tranſcendant gracious God, is
" the great object of this tranſient life—
" to attain that is the perfection of all
" human wiſdom. To know thee, to
"love thee, to hear and fulfil thy word;
" for this are we endowed with an im-
" mortal ſpirit, that ſoars above all
" earthly wiſhes and enjoyments."

Tears flowed abundant down the livid cheeks of the venerable *Emir*; nor could the tender ſoul of the young hero

hero contain the ſwelling drops that gathered in his eyes. *Haſſan* daily converſed with the ready *Uſong* on the pre-eminence of virtue, the ineſtimable value of goodneſs, the happineſs inſeparable from pure and unaffected piety. The youth felt a perſuaſive emotion: without juſtifying *Mahomed*'s tyrannic exaltation, he adored the only God, and joined the worſhippers of the Supreme Being—He willingly accepted, the name of *Haſſan*, and conſidered himſelf as a ſon of the excellent old man, who had firſt taught him rightly to know, and worthily to honour his bountiful creator.

Uſong continued his journey—He came in ſight of *Anah*, a large city on

on the ſkirts of the deſart, and far extending on both the banks of the *Euphrates*—Here the ground reſumes its wonted pride, and men improve it by their aſſiduous labour—Here groves of palm-trees, fields richly teeming with luxuriant crops, ſweet flowery gardens, ſources of plenty and delights, raviſh the ſight alternately, and add ſplendor to the majeſtic ſtream.

But mankind was not allowed the peaceful enjoyments of theſe plenteous gifts of nature: oppreſſions were daily practiſed in thoſe unhappy times—*Uſong* met on the road an old grey-headed *Emir*, who rent his cloaths, and ſhewed every viſible ſign of deep deſpair.

"Alas!

" Alas! they have robbed me of my
" child; they have ſtoln the daughter
" of godlike heroes, the brighteſt,
" pureſt gem of my unblemiſhed race—
" ſee where they drag her to the bed of
" infamy, to everlaſting ſhame—Ah!
" wretched me, muſt I behold the ruin
" of my daughter, and want the power
" to ſave her?"—Thus did he anſwer *Uſong*'s queſtions.

The valorous *Zengide* looked up, and ſaw on the road, leading to the city, a cloud of duſt, through which he could at times diſcern a camel running full ſpeed, and impatiently urged on by his leaders—Inceſſantly did he follow the trace, and ſoon came up with the young princeſs, who tearing her jetty

hair

hair called out for help, as often as ſhe could free her mouth. A troop of well-mounted robbers ſurrounded her.

The number was unequal, and the attack dangerous: but *Uſong* never compared his enterprizes with his power of atchieving them—He followed unguarded the noble impulſe that fired his generous heart: he fell upon the ſervants of the prince of *Anah* with the fury of a lioneſs bereaved of her whelps —Theſe were the robbers who had ſtoln the *Emir*'s daughter, and were now haſtening to give her up to the brutal luſt of their libidinous maſter, who was ſon to one of the warriors of the great *Timur*.—The ſuperiority of his weapons, the excellence of his horſes, his greater

ſkill in the uſe of arms, and eſpecially the intrepid ardour which the mere ſight of injuſtice excited in his ſoul, gave *Uſong* the victory—He delivered the princeſs.

She exceeded in beauty all the ladies *Uſong* had ever ſeen: "Faireſt of princely "daughters," ſaid he, "haſte to comfort "thy deſpairing father."—He guided the camel, and the daughter of the *Emir*, who now, for the firſt time, beheld a young ſtranger, unveiled, bluſhed as a roſe newly-expanded—with downcaſt eyes, and timid modeſty, ſhe ſuffered herſelf to be conducted, and dared not venture to thank the victorious prince for her deliverance.

They

They ſoon overtook the wretched father, whoſe anguiſhed heart was giving way to loud and ſad complaints. He ſaw the darling of his ſoul, but doubted yet his unexpected happineſs; "Is this "my dear *Emeta?* do I behold her un- "defiled? ſhall thy race ſtill ſubſiſt "without a blemiſh? and may thy "aged father deſcend into the grave "without a ſtain upon his honour?

"But this place is dangerous," ſaid he, after uttering theſe joyful exclamations: "Come, noble ſtranger, let us commit "my precious treaſure into a ſafe re- "treat." He led *Uſong* into a foreſt, which at the entrance was open but gradually thickened, and at length appeared impenetrable. The *Emir* knew well

well the winding path that led through the palm-buſhes to the valley, where lofty trees ſheltered the tents of his retainers.

Emeta concealed her baſhful face in the boſom of her mother. "Pardon, "I pray," ſaid ſhe, "pardon thy child "for having been expoſed to the eyes "of men: Barbarians, who know no "decency, and obſerve no morals, held "me in their power." The mother bedewed her child with joyful tears— "Bright ornament of thy illuſtrious "race," ſhe cried, "retire with me "into our peaceful huts. Still, my "dear *Emeta*, yes, ſtill thou art my "daughter."

The noble *Abuſhir*, ſuch was the *Emir*'s name, was now expoſed to the wrath and ſuperior power of the prince of *Anah*. He was himſelf incenſed with a deſire of vengeance—An *Arab*, whoſe honour and affections are both attacked, is an exaſperated tyger—He ſent to all the tribes of the deſart from *Baſra* to *Halep*: "Noble *Emirs*," was his meſſage, "will you ſuffer your "daughters to be polluted, your ho- "nour to be violated? Will you pa- "tiently brook the ſhame and infamy "of your illuſtrious races?

The fire that raged in the boſom of the old *Abuſhir* enflamed the *Arabian* princes with an equal ardour for revenge. They lived in conſtant enmity with

with the princes of the cities, from whom they had received all manner of inſults; and who ſupported their cruel tyranny by mercenary forces, who knew no diſcipline, and ſuffered no controul over their licentious appetites.

The *Emirs* joined the vindictive *Abuſhir*, and in a few weeks a numerous army was aſſembled. *Dſhuneid* alſo, the ſon of the venerable *Haſſan*, came with a choſen band, and rejoiced in the opportunity of extolling to his brethren the delivery he owed the generous *Uſong* —He embraced his friend, whoſe affection his pure innocence and virtue had inſured him; and brought him the repeated bleſſings of the thankful *Haſſan*.

Uſong remained not idle in the midſt of theſe warlike preparations—His exploits, and the dignity that ſhone forth in all his actions, gave him a juſt aſcendant among his new friends. He admoniſhed the ungovernable *Arabs* to caution themſelves againſt an enemy that was deſpicable in every reſpect, except the art of war. The inhabitants of the deſarts being all accuſtomed to fight on horſeback, he taught them how to draw up in ranks, and how, in cloſe files and with levelled ſpears, to aſſail their enemies, and break into their lines—He ſaw that nothing would be able to reſiſt the fiery mettle of the *Arabian* horſes, and the execution of their formidable lances.

The prince of *Anah* was a robber addicted to cruelty and luſt—He had offended the *Emir* in the moſt outrageous manner, and yet meditated revenge. The object of his inordinate deſires had been ſnatched from him, whilſt he conſidered as his property all that his ſabre could ſubdue—He aſſembled his forces, and obtained aſſiſtance from ſeveral other princes who reigned in different parts of the divided empire of *Perſia*, and ſhared with him, in one common extraction, being all deſcended from the generals of *Timur*.

The two armies ſoon met, as they fought each other. *Uſong* prevailed upon the *Emirs* to conceal a ſelect body, under the command of his friend *Dſhu-*

neid, behind an eminence near the field of battle. He found great difficulty in perſuading the *Arabs* to deſcend to a ſtratagem.

The *Emirs* led on their horſe full ſpeed, in cloſe array, and with protended lances. Their enemies yielded to the firſt onſet; but behind the cavalry ſtood a ſtrong body of foot, which, by means of their pernicious fire-arms, threw confuſion among the *Arabs*, and forced them to a precipitate retreat. *Dſhuneid* at that very inſtant fell upon the flank of this ſteady infantry, routed, and ſoon diſperſed them. The ſcattered *Arabs* returned to the charge: the victory was decided in their favour, and few of the enemies eſcaped; for no horſe

horſes exceed thoſe of the *Arabs* in ſwiftneſs.

The princes flew to the capital, not with a view of ſeizing on it for themſelves; for never do the *Arabs* dwell in cities; their vengeance prompted them to the final extirpation of their enemy: but the rapacious prince of *Anah* had been trampled to death in the battle; and the inhabitants came out to meet them with palm-branches in their hands, and every other demonſtration of the moſt genuine gladneſs — They received their conquerors as their deliverers, for long had they groaned under an heavy yoke; and never had their property, their honour, or their lives

been ſecure under the iron rod of their inexorable tyrant.

Abuſhir, on viewing this conqueſt, called out to his brethren, "We *Arabs* "care not for cities; but we muſt re- "member to be grateful. We owe "the victory to the young ſtranger's "conduct; we owe him our lives, "our honour—Illuſtrious *Emirs*, ſe- "cure a friendly neighbour, and let "the willing *Anah* be his due recom- "pence. What can be more glorious "for the *Arabs*, than their rewarding "virtue? what greater benefit can they "confer on this wretched people, than "to give them ſo excellent a ruler?"

The

The council of the aged *Abuſhir* was approved by the whole aſſembly: a general ſhout confirmed the gift. The inhabitants of *Anah* joyfully acknowledged *Uſong* for their prince.

The *Emir* rejoiced at the exaltation of his friend; and as a further proof of his unbounded gratitude, he deſtined the fair *Emeta* for the bride of her deliverer. Never had *Arabia* boaſted of ſuch an accompliſhed form, and of ſuch virtues: and *Uſong* was at an age when beauty exerts the moſt imperious ſway over the hearts of men —— But *Dſhuneid* had ſeen her: he ſaw her on the day when *Abuſhir*, arming for the battle, his beloved daughter hung a taliſman

man * about his neck, to ſcreen him, as ſhe thought, from every danger—— *Dſhuneid* was ſuddenly enamoured, and confeſſed his paſſion to the noble *Zengide*—*Uſong*, with his wonted generoſity, availed himſelf of the obligation he had conferred on the fair *Emeta*'s father: he obtained the charming beauty for his friend, and thus, ſo *Dſhuneid* ſaid, reſcued his life a ſecond time.

Uſong took poſſeſſion of his dominions. He recollected the laſt words of *Liewang*, and conſidered this ſtep as an opportunity heaven offered to prove himſelf worthy of bearing ſovereign

* The *Arabs* have at all times been much addicted to that ſuperſtition.

ſway.

ſway. Such ſentiments, at the firſt dawn of power, are a ſure preſage of a glorious reign.

The prince ſought the acquaintance of the moſt prudent and experienced among his ſubjects; he gathered the opinions of the heads of every family; he courted the confidence of all thoſe who bore unblemiſhed reputations, and freely converſed with them. All that he could collect from this unreſerved intercourſe with the wiſeſt and moſt virtuous of his people, and all that his own obſervations ſuggeſted, he entered in the book of WORTHIES——Thoſe who diſplayed ſome abilities, he entruſted with commiſſions, which, by their very nature, were limited to a certain time:

time: he watched their conduct closely; and if they answered his expectations, he conferred on them more permanent employments.

The gravest men of *Anah* he appointed judges, but daily visited himself the court of justice—He heard, discussed, and yielded to convincing arguments: he either confirmed the verdicts of the judges by his friendly approbation, or amended them, after having laid down his reasons for differing from them.

He raised a small body of guards, which he composed of the noblest youths—He ordered *Scherin*, and his *Italian* friends *Riva* and *Antonino*, to instruct them in the manual exercise and other

other evolutions: he often commanded them himſelf, and taught them the moſt uſeful manœuvres: he practiſed them in the uſe of the bow, and in keeping regular ranks and order: he eſtabliſhed prizes, and gave preferments to thoſe who diſtinguiſhed themſelves, either by their abilities, or diligence.

Not being inclined to oſtentation, *Uſong* entertained few ſtanding troops, and kept no *Harem*.—The charges of government were thus reduced; and he found himſelf enabled to remit one half of the taxes rigidly extorted during the former reign, and to free his people from all the oppreſſions practiſed in thoſe hard times. He viſited the hovels of the poor and helpleſs: to ſome he gave

gave the neceſſary maintenance, and required only the ſmall portion of labour they could with eaſe perform: to others he aſſigned both land and cattle, of which the thankful *Emirs* had granted him abundance—As his dominions were not extenſive, he ſoon became acquainted with all his ſubjects: the virtuous and induſtrious he encouraged by his particular approbation, and by every poſſible advantage: the vicious and ſlothful, he firſt warned, then corrected by public reprehenſions, and, at length, inflicted on them the neceſſary puniſhments.

The virtue of a prince is the greateſt happineſs of his people.—The ſubjects of the noble *Uſong* could not but fondly

cheriſh a ſovereign who lent an attentive ear to every complaint, relieved every neceſſity, eaſed every ſorrow, rewarded every merit.—His fame mounted on high from the hearts of his exulting ſubjects, and ſpread into all the adjacent countries. Several ſmall ſtates ſhook off their yokes, and implored the protection of the only prince, who had ever, within the memory of any man then living, enjoyed the affection of the *Meſopotamians**.

Perſia was, at that time, diſtracted by inteſtine broils and contentions.—

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* *Uſong* is ſaid, by the *Europeans*, to have been prince of *Diarbekir*, a province ſituated ſomewhat more to the north.

The

The northern provinces were under the dominion of the cruel *Abuſaid*, a deſcendant of *Timur*—*Shehan*—*Shach*, another *Turcoman*, governed with an iron ſcepter in *Aderbeitſhan*, *Irak*, *Fars*, and *Kerman*—*Schiras* ſtood under the *Mirza Juſuf*——*Bagdad*, *Baſra*, and ſeveral ſmaller cities and diſtricts were ruled by ſeparate princes, who, being conſtantly at war among themſelves, extorted from their ſubjects all they poſſeſſed, to furniſh for the maintenance of conſiderable armies, and the entertainment of numerous *Harems*. The groans of the oppreſſed people, throughout all *Perſia*, reached to heaven, and called down vengeance on the impious heads of their obdurate tyrants.

Diar-

Diarbeker * threw itſelf eagerly into the arms of *Uſong*: *Bagdad* and *Baſra* implored the bleſſing of being ruled by ſuch a prince—He was compelled to divide his cares, and to increaſe his forces—The vigour of his mind alleviated all fatigue: and the object he conſtantly purſued, of rendering himſelf a fit inſtrument of kind beneficent Providence, turned the increaſing toils of government into the moſt refined enjoyments.

Many wiſe and honeſt men came ſucceſſively, from every part of *Perſia*, and ſummoned *Uſong* to embrace the cauſe of languiſhing humanity; nor to

* *Bizarro* de reb. Perſ.

ſuffer that ſo many thouſands of innocent victims ſhould, almoſt under his own eyes, pine beneath the weight of the ſevereſt tyranny.—*Uſong*'s great ſoul was nobly fired at the glorious enterprize of reſtoring peace and happineſs to *Perſia*—But, young as he was, he foreſaw the many difficulties that would attend ſo vaſt an undertaking, and was ſhocked at the effuſion of precious blood it muſt occaſion.

In this dubious uncertainty, he appealed to the venerable *Haſſan*: he laid before him the offers of the *Perſians*, and craved the advice of that truly virtuous and pious *Emir*. *Haſſan* perceived, that the happineſs of millions depended upon the performance of this

heroic

heroic duty—The *Orientals* always prefer the general good to the private intereſts of a few individuals—The righteous *Haſſan* admoniſhed *Uſong* to accept the proffers of the injured *Perſians*, and to haſten to their deliverance.

The council of the beſt of men determined the generous *Zengide* — He ſent to his friends the *Arabian* princes to ſolicit a ſupply of voluntary cavalry: he ſoon obtained it; they flew, with eager readineſs, to the ſervice of their honoured leader—The ſon of *Haſſan* quitted the fond embraces of the incomparable *Emeta*, and joined his friend with a ſelect band of noble *Arabs*. The neighbouring *Curdiſtan* furniſhed a ſtrong

body of auxiliaries, who were ever after eſteemed the beſt ſupporters of the *Perſian* monarchs—*Diarbeker* and *Algezira* ſtood all in arms for the ſervice of their favourite hero; but he retained only the moſt valorous and active. Thus did he raiſe an army, leſs formidable for its number, than for its ſpirit and intrepidity. He exerciſed his men himſelf, and appointed to the ſeveral commands, the warriors he had already formed at *Anah*.

Shehan Shach, of the race of the *Black Sheep*, was the firſt tyrant who felt the impreſſion of *Uſong*'s arms—He was a cruel prince; and though far advanced in years, yet given to immoderate drinking, and all manner of licentious wan-

tonneſs. He attempted to ſurprize *Uſong* with a body of light troops; but his debauched life haſtened his final ruin. The ſon of *Zengis* fell upon him in the night, when a carouſing fit had rendered him incapable of making any reſiſtance—His tents were ſet on fire and his unhappy ſubjects ſaw the horrors of a night, in which both flames and the ſword ſurrounded them on every quarter: the intoxicated prince periſhed in the dreadful conflagration, and few of his army eſcaped: the extorted treaſures of the inhuman tyrant fell into the hands of the *Arabs* and *Curds*, and encouraged them to new exploits.

Haſſan Ali, the ſon of *Shehan*, heir to his dominions and to his many vices,

raiſed an army ten times more numerous than that of *Uſong*—But heaven ſeemed to declare in favour of the *Zengide*, and to have decreed his exaltation to the throne of *Cyrus*, and of *Nuſhirwan*—*Uſong* found *Haſſan Ali* already conquered. *Abuſaid*, grandſon of the victorious *Timur*, had taken the field againſt him, and the beſt part of his troops had forſaken him. *Uſong* found no difficulty in diſperſing the ſmall remains: and *Haſſan Ali* fell in the encounter.

The potent *Abuſaid* invaded *Aderbeitſhan*, and *Uſong* found his army too inferior, to venture openly into the field againſt him—But the warlike prince of *Anah* knew how to avail himſelf of his

his light *Arabian* cavalry: he diſperſed them in ſeveral bodies, and to each he aſſigned a poſt, a diſtrict to over-run, and a ſtated rendezvous, where the ſcattered parties were to aſſemble.—The *Arabs* obſtructed the communication of the army of *Abuſaid* with the other provinces; they cut off all their proviſions: when the heavy cavalry of the *Timuride* drew out againſt them, they diſperſed; and in a few days collected and harraſſed them anew. *Uſong* had taken ſo advantageous a poſt at *Carabag*, that *Abuſaid* found it impoſſible to attack him.

The eaſtern ſoldiery are held together by no other tie than the ſucceſs of their

arms; the leaſt turn of fortune diſcourages and diſperſes them: they fly from a prince whoſe ſtars want influence to lead them on to victories—*Abuſaid* was ſoon deſerted by his famiſhed army, and brought priſoner to the generous *Uſong*. "Son of *Timur*," ſaid he to his vanquiſhed enemy, "although "thou didſt attack me without any pro- "vocation, yet do I pity thy fatal deſtiny: "dwell with me, and bend ſubmiſſively "to thy preſent fate." But the noble views of the victorious *Zengide* were not accompliſhed: ſome *Perſians*, whoſe vindictive rage had been excited by the oppreſſive government of *Abuſaid*, watched an opportunity when *Uſong* was

was abſent, and put the priſoner to death *.

Uſong purſued the ſmall remains of the race of the *Black Sheep*, and made himſelf maſter of *Schiras* and of *Tars*, without unſheathing the ſword. *Khoraſſan* ſtood under ſeveral *Timurides*, who had weakened themſelves by mutual diſſenſions. On the approach of the *Perſian* forces ſome fled to the *Uſbecks*; and *Badizzaman* ſurrendered to the victor, whoſe goodneſs was univerſally acknowledged—At *Tabris* he met with a royal reception. *Mirza Uſuf*, who reigned at *Schiras*, fell an eaſy victim to his

* The *Europeans* ſay that a court martial ſentenced him to death.

conquering

conquering arms. The *Europeans* are aſtoniſhed at the rapidity of the conqueſts of whole empires in the eaſt—But *Perſia* had no fortreſſes; and the hearts of the people flew to the reception of the proſperous *Uſong* *. The number of ſmall princes were the ſcourge and deteſtation of the *Perſians*, and the whole extenſive empire was ſubdued without the conqueror's loſing ſcarce a friend.

He ſummoned now to *Caſwin* all the *Perſians* of greateſt note; the elders of

* The weſtern authors mention *Uſong* having conquered *Perſia* in two years; but they place the conqueſt ſome years later.

the

the people, the heads of families, and the wiſeſt of the realm. They aſſembled in an extenſive plain, and the innumerable multitude of their horſes covered the whole interminable ſpace. The army, which under *Uſong* had defeated ſo many foes, ſurrounded their commander, and entered the plain in triumphant ſtate—They diſplayed the many banners they had taken, the armour, the equipages and accoutrements of the many princes they had overthrown, and the enſigns of the ſupreme dominion of the ſons of *Timur*. Their perpetual ſhouts, that rent the ſky, proclaimed to the aſſembled *Perſians* their veneration for their wife, their good, their valiant leader; who, through all the dangers of a great and perilous

war

war had, with little loſs, procured them the moſt ſignal victories.

Uſong appeared among them in the martial attire, which greatly enhanced the dignity of his majeſtic ſhape. " Noble " *Perſians*," ſaid he, " you are aſſembled " to chooſe a monarch of your empire " —Twenty princes had ſhared it among " them: the barbarians trampled on " the oldeſt empire of the world. Now " 'tis united. Name ye a ſovereign now " who may render to *Perſia* its former " ſplendor."—" Long live *Uſong Padi-* " *ſhaw* *, as victorious as *Cyrus*, as wiſe

* This is the ancient title of the kings of *Parthia*, and may be met with on the coins of *Vologeſes* the 2d. The *Turkiſh* ſultan aſſumes it, and turns the *imperial* title of the *Europeans* into *Padiſhaw*. The *Perſian* monarchs of the race of *Ali* always bore it.

" as

" as *Naſhirwan*; may he reign as long " as *Sapor* *," was the univerſal cry throughout the whole multitude unbounded to the ſight, and not one *Perſian* withheld his ſuffrage from the general voice.

Uſong bowed to his people; " Your " confidence is great, illuſtrious *Per-* " *ſians*," ſaid he generouſly affected; " may *Uſong* ever deſerve it: the ſole " buſineſs of his life ſhall be to ſtudy " your happineſs."

Amidſt the loud and joyful acclamations of the exulting *Perſians*, he aſ-

* Seventy years.

cended

cended the throne of *Cyrus*. *Ruſtans* *, the hero's ſword, was girded round his loins —— He ſhared all he poſſeſſed among his friends the *Arabs*, *Curds*, and his faithful *Perſians*: hopes were the only treaſures he reſerved. The *Emirs* returned to their tents, enriched and ſatisfied: *Dſhuneid* alone, to whom a ſon had now been born, could not ſo ſoon break from the converſe of his exalted friend.

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* An hero of the moſt ancient *Perſians*, of whom ſeveral Coloſſal monuments have been found, and whoſe ſword was preſerved as a ſacred relick.

USONG.

BOOK THE SECOND.

THE firſt days of the new emperor's reign were full of troubles and difficulties. *Uſong* had graſped the ſcepter with the liberal hopes of youthful confidence; but he felt now the whole weight and importance of the charge he had undertaken. A ſtranger, unſupported by family connexions, unknown in *Perſia* till within two years, ventured now to take upon him the government of a vaſt empire, which,

which, during many centuries, had known no law, no order, no regular conſtitution; of an innumerable people, that had always been unfortunate under a ſucceſſion of weak princes, and habitually averſe to the allegiance they owe their ſovereigns. The military affairs, the finances, the adminiſtration of juſtice, the morals of the whole nation were all ſunk into the greateſt relaxation and diſorder. All required redreſs; but all required effectual and immediate redreſs.

Amidſt theſe urgent cares the heart of *Uſcng* felt the reviving impreſſion of his dear *Lioſua*. "*Liewang*'s preſage is "now fulfilled," ſaid he to the happy *Scherin*; "go, bear this letter and theſe

"gifts

" gifts to the wife *Zongtu*, and to his " virtuous daughter." The emperor loaded his friend with the many rarities he had brought from *Europe*, and with the moſt valuable productions of *Perſia*; and *Scherin* departed.

The emperor wrote at the ſame time to the illuſtrious ſenators of *Venice*; and diſpatched thither the faithful *Riva* with an important commiſſion, and rich preſents.

And now were all his thoughts turned to the beſt means of extricating *Perſia* out of its deplorable condition. He recollected all that he had learnt of the old ſages in *China*, and all that he had ever heard from the experienced *Lie-*

wang; this he compared with the clear notions he had acquired during his travels, from the prudent *Venetians* and from the virtuous *Morad*—His own penetration led him through the perplexing maze; and ſeveral old *Perſians*, of whoſe merit he was well apprized, aſſiſted him in the arduous undertaking.

He firſt planned the order of his private life. He roſe daily with the ſun: he ordered that the gates of his palace ſhould be laid open at the ſame time, and that all *Perſians* be admitted into his preſence in the order they firſt appeared. Thoſe who came to preſent petitions had the ſatisfaction of delivering them into the emperor's own hands,

and,

and, after a certain time, of receiving their anſwers from himſelf. Law matters were frequently diſcuſſed, and finally determined before him, in the hours of public audience.—After this, *Uſong* attended with his miniſters on the buſineſs of the ſtate, which, according to the ſeveral departments he had eſtabliſhed, came on regularly on ſtated days. Towards the evening he rode out, ſhewed himſelf to his people, and made enquiries into every circumſtance relative to the police, and the diſtribution of juſtice. His intimates, whom he daily exchanged, continued with him till the night, and gave him the neceſſary informations on all affairs of importance. *Uſong* was not addicted either to hunting, gaming, feaſting, or muſic: "Eve-

" ry hour of a ſovereign's life," ſaid he, " is due to the good of his people." He ſought his only recreation in a friendly converſe, and the peruſal of hiſtorical books, to which he dedicated the ſultry and moſt unactive hours of the day.

The empire of *Perſia*, which had now ſubmitted to his governance, was far more extenſive than the province of *Anah*. *Uſong* could no longer entertain the hopes of being able himſelf to inſpect the ſpreading and minute concerns of the inferior branches of adminiſtration: he found it neceſſary to commit part of the truſt into the hands of faithful and intelligent ſervants, and to ſee through their diſcerning eyes. To every province he appointed a *Dele-*

gate,

gate *, for ſo he named them, and choſe for thoſe important offices, ſuch perſons only, whoſe integrity he had experienced in *Meſopotamia*. Their firſt injunction was, to receive the homage of the people in the emperor's name, and to declare, that before the next *Naurus* ‡ he would ſettle the annual taxes, which the ſplendor of the throne, and the contingent charges of government, abſolutely required; and that for the preſent exigencies, he only deſired a free contribution, which evey *Perſian* ſhould modify according to his circumſtances, having

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* *Chardin* calls them *Intendants*: under the *Carlovingian* kings they were named *Miſſi Dominici*.

‡ New year's day.

previouſly conſulted the wants of his own family.

The emperor's uncommon moderation gratefully affected all the *Perſians:* The voluntary contribution amounted to a far greater ſum than he ſhould have demanded, had he preſcribed it himſelf.

The delegates were directed to find out in each reſpective province the moſt virtuous, loyal, and able ſubjects; to converſe with them; to try their parts, and aſſure themſelves of their integrity; to ſelect out of their number ſuch as they thought beſt fitted for the offices of magiſtracy and judicature; and to propoſe to the emperor's option three of them for every poſt, exhibiting at the

ſame

ſame time the motives of the preference given them. This nomination they were enjoined to hold in readineſs againſt the emperor's intended progreſs, that all the candidates might then be brought into his preſence.

Uſong ſolemnly declared to his delegates that he ſhould never pardon an attempt to deceive him; and that whoever ſhould dare to propoſe an unqualified or vicious perſon for any public office, or be detected in colluſive practices, ſhould never more behold his face.

The emperor ſet out on his progreſs ſome months before the *Naurus:* He viſited all the fifteen provinces of his empire, and tarried ſeveral days in each

capital: he received every petition, enquired into the wants of every diſtrict, and examined himſelf the capacity of every candidate. Thoſe in whom he diſcovered the greateſt ſhare of wiſdom, he appointed to the ſeveral offices, for the ſpace of one year.—The names of all the candidates were regiſtered in the book of WORTHIES; and the delegates were ordered to report annually what ſervices or demerits they had obſerved in each of them, and what other names they thought might deſervedly be added to the liſt.

Uſong found moſt of the cities decayed, many villages deſerted, and the water-conduits, on which the fertility of *Perſia* intirely depended, totally demoliſhed.

liſhed *. " Theſe are the ſad effects," ſaid he, lamenting to his friend *Dſhuneid*, " of the errors of princes, who " are not actuated by a love for their " people."—He ordered the canals to to be inceſſantly cleared and carefully repaired: he promiſed rewards for the diſcovery of new ſprings, and for tracing the old and drained ones. He purchaſed, from his friends the *Curds*, great flocks of ſheep, and numerous herds of oxen, which he diſtributed among his indigent ſubjects, without either rent or intereſt, but on condition that in three years they ſhould begin to refund the capital, and that in three

* This a wiſe *Waſir* conſidered as a great public calamity.

years

years more the whole debt ſhould be diſcharged. He directed proper cuts and ſluices to be made, by means of which the waters of the inland rivers were copiouſly conducted into the arid plains. Other premiums he alſo propoſed for the culture of fruit-trees, and eſpecially of the valuable nurſe of the ſilk-worm, the mulberry-tree; he promiſed to ſuch as planted the greateſt number of them, one half of the reward in the firſt year, and the other half for thoſe that ſurvived the third year.

He allowed ſums in advance for rebuilding the ruinous houſes. He provided that, in a few years, the demoliſhed roads and bridges ſhould all be perfectly reſtored; and for that purpoſe

puſe engaged to furniſh two thirds of the neceſſary charges, and required the labour of the people for the remaining third. He promiſed frequently to viſit his provinces—"And he ſhall be my "friend," ſaid he, "who beſt culti- "vates his land, and ſupplies the ſtate "with the greateſt number of well- "educated children."

He aſſembled from all parts the beſt artiſts and labourers: he encouraged them to acquaint him freely with the various products of art and nature, in all their different quarters; how both could be improved; what commodities the ſite and quality of every ſpot promiſed to yield in greateſt plenty and perfection; and by what means

means theſe fruits of human induſtry and of heaven's bounty could be ſtill more encreaſed and meliorated.—All their propoſals were drawn up, and, without naming the authors, ſubmitted to the examination of other ſkilful judges. "*Perſia* is poor," ſaid *Uſong*, "but it contains within itſelf the ſource "of wealth and happineſs."

The finances appeared next the moſt important of all regulations.—*Uſong* reflected on the farms of taxes the *Oſmans* had adopted, and the management of the public revenue he had obſerved in *China*. Several of his counſellors adviſed the farms.—"A ſmall ſtate," ſaid they, "may adminiſter its own "finances, inſpect the accounts, and "hinder

" hinder frauds and violences; but in
" ſo vaſt an empire as *Perſia*, the ut-
" moſt vigilance of the emperor can-
" not prevent part of the ſubject's
" gold clinging to the hands of the
" lime-fingered collectors; and if ava-
" rice does not prompt them to an ac-
" tive execution of their duty, their neg-
" ligence will deprive the ſovereign of
" one half of his due income. The
" farms, on the other hand, offer at
" once to the emperor's view the whole
" amount of his revenue; and enable
" him to obviate the complaints of his
" people, either by granting the farms
" only for ſhort terms, or by puniſhing
" oppreſſion by immediate and abſo-
" lute expulſion."

Uſong had been taught in *China* that the emperor is the *father of his people*; and his heart confirmed this duty with the moſt fervent emotions. "Shall "I reſign the privilege I have of do- "ing good unto my people? When lo- "cuſts ſpread devaſtation over a coun- "try, ſhall it ſtill pay the taxes? "when a contagious mortality deſtroys "the cattle of the laborious hind *, "is he ſtill to diſcharge the rent of his "field, which he can neither till

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* The *Perſian* peaſants, even in the laſt century, repaired to court after a general famine, and ſhewed the emperor the empty ears, and the locuſts that had ſpoiled their fields: they always, upon ſuch occaſions, obtain a mitigation of their taxes.

" nor reap—The rapacious farmer " raiſes the taxes and impoſts without " mercy; he reckons every poſſible con- " tingency, and deducts every apparent " danger from the ſubſidy he owes the " ſovereign. Thus he fruſtrates the " prince of his juſt due; thus he ex- " torts from the people, by a thouſand " oppreſſive arts, the means of grati- " fying, in princely ſplendor, his inſa- " tiate appetites; whilſt, without re- " morſe, he often wrings from them " the ſcanty ſuſtenance of an aged pa- " rent, or of helpleſs infants." The injuſtice of the farmers among the *Oſmans*, and the miſery of the people, which even the beſt of emperors could not alleviate, had filled the heart of *Uſong* with ſorrow and compaſſion.

The

The emperor reſolved to imitate the example of *China* and of *Hindoſtan*, where the taxes were levied upon the produce of the field——All the lands in moſt of the provinces of *Perſia*, and their exact dimenſions, had, ever ſince the reign of the wiſe *Nuſhirwan*, been regiſtered in books, that the neceſſary water-conduits might be branched out in due proportion to their extent. *Uſong* recollected that the old kings of *Hindoſtan*, who for their excellent virtues had been ranked among the gods, demanded for their ſhare, one and a half fifth of the produce of the harveſt, and that under this tax the people enjoyed their golden days.—"*Perſia* yields leſs," ſaid *Uſong*, "than the rice-fields on the

Ganges

" *Ganges* and *Caweri**; a poorer peo-
" ple muſt be favoured, when the exi-
" gencies of the ſtate are no ways
" urgent." He aſſeſſed every acre of fertile land at half an ounce of ſilver yearly, which amounted to leſs than the twelfth part of the annual crop. A large tract of land he reſerved for the domain of the crown, part of which he granted out on leaſes, or appropriated to particular public charges, and the greateſt part he aſſigned to the ſupport of indigent labourers.

" The taxes," ſaid *Uſong*, " ought
" to be ſo plain and ſimple, that the

* A river in *Coromandel* that overflows and fertilizes the rice fields.

" municipal officers may be able to
" collect them without trouble or per-
" plexity. When they are numerous
" and complicated, as in *Europe*, a
" ſeparate department becomes then re-
" quiſite; and hence ariſe the ſhoals
" of greedy ſharks, who, though amply
" fed by the ſovereign, will yet, with
" voracious keenneſs, prey on the very
" vitals of the ſubject. Every *Perſian*
" landholder ſhall pay his ſhare to the
" magiſtrates of the next neighbouring
" town, who ſhall tranſmit it to the
" treaſurer of the province; and thus
" ſhall the whole revenue, without
" deduction, and without additional
" charges either to the prince or ſub-
" ject, be collected into the treaſury.
" As the aſſeſſment is invariably de-
" termined

" termined by the dimenſions of the
" lands, no cavil and no error can
" poſſibly ariſe in the payment. So
" moderate a tribute cannot impoveriſh
" the *Perſians*, and the wants of the
" ſtate will yet be abundantly ſup-
" plied*.

" Should Providence inflict a ſevere
" judgment on a province; ſhould the
" offended Deity ſend forth an hoſt
" of devouring inſects; ſhould inexor-
" able heaven deny its vernal ſhowers
" and genial warmth to the well-cul-
" tured ſoil, then may the emperor

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* According to a moderate computation, this revenue amounted to 1,500,000 marks of ſilver.

 " with

" with eaſe learn, through his delegates,
" the wants and hardſhips his people
" labour under; and, conſidering the
" weight of their diſtreſſes, prevent
" their ruin, by timely and parental
" aid.

" No other tax ſhall be impoſed.—
" The induſtrious diligence of the arti-
" ficer might indeed afford a ſmall
" ſhare of its emolument; the wealthy
" trader ought, in juſtice, to contri-
" bute part of his ſuperfluous income
" towards the ſupport of the power
" that protects him; but the eſtimate of
" ſuch profits would be too arbitrary,
" and equity in that inſtance almoſt
" impracticable. The emperor's claim
" to partake of the fruits of induſtry,

" would

" would diſcourage the artiſt from
" ſtriving to better his condition: and
" nothing is more grievous than taxes
" which have no fixt ſtandard; which
" favour may alleviate, or ſpite increaſe.

" Neither ſhall the ploughman, by
" improving his harveſt, be bound to
" raiſe his fixt annual contribution;
" the fruits of his labour ſhall be his
" property—but it ſhall be a fine on
" ſlothfulneſs, that thoſe whoſe lands
" lie barren through their own neg-
" lect, ſhall notwithſtanding be com-
" pelled to the yearly payment of their
" ſtated portion."

A duty on the importation of foreign goods was the only impoſt *Uſong* conti-

nued beſides this general land-tax; but he reduced it to the loweſt rates. His view was not to accumulate treaſures from the profits of trade: but by this means he was made acquainted with the quantity and value of goods that were yearly imported, and ſent to foreign markets; and thus found out the ſore that exhauſted *Perſia*'s vigour, and the means to heal it. He obſerved what articles were imported, which *Perſia* could either ſpare, or ſupply by its own produce—*Uſong* was too provident not to perceive the neceſſity of keeping the balance of trade in equal poize: "No land can flouriſh," ſaid he, "that "annually receives more than it ex- "ports."

This

This was the emperor's firſt eſtabliſhment of the revenue—His next care turned to judicial matters, and the police.

He had experienced, at *Venice*, the neceſſity of maintaining an equilibrium between the military and the civil ſtates. That republic, though engaged in continual wars, had never been diſturbed by the ſoldiery; whilſt, at *Rome*, the throne had been frequently ſubverted, either by the guards, or by the provincial legions; and *Carthage*, after her firſt wars, had been more harraſſed by her own troops, than by the conquering arms of *Rome*.

Venice always choſe foreign generals, who had no connexions in the ſtate; who were appointed only for a ſmall number of years; were well rewarded, and, in caſes of neglect or treachery, ſeverely puniſhed. The provincial governments, the ſupreme direction of public affairs, the law offices, the police, the finances, the magiſtracy, were never entruſted into the hands of military men. Thus the people was ſecure of independance; and a ſufficient counterpoize was effectually maintained againſt the violence and ambition of the ſoldiery.

The legions were omnipotent at *Rome*—no ſooner was the ſenate rouſed by the ſpirit of liberty and a ſenſe of

their

their former greatneſs, but the ſword of the pretorian guards cruſhed ſuddenly the aſpiring emulation. A ſmall number of ſoldiers thruſt imperial *Galba* from the throne, and placed, in his room, the ſervile companion of *Nero*'s abandoned lewdneſs. Both the ſenate and the people were deſtitute of arms and manly vigour: a numerous body of guards, entrenched in a ſtrong camp, awed the capital, which dared not make the leaſt effort to ſhake off the ignominious yoke.

Uſong foreſaw that the error of the *Oſmans*, in confiding the government of their provinces to the generals of the army, would in time bring on the ruin of that empire. "No balance is

"there

" there preſerved, and the people pine
" in ſlavery. The deſpotic ſeverity of
" the eaſtern monarchs muſt render
" thoſe governors formidable to the
" throne, who have nothing to dread
" in a revolt but the underhand prac-
" tices of a black eunuch, whoſe en-
" venomed breath may prove as fatal
" as want of ſucceſs in the field. No-
" thing can controul a paſhaw in an in-
" ſurrection: the people he ſacrifices to
" his military forces; and, ſheltered
" by theſe, he exerciſes abſolute and
" independant ſway.—As long as a
" *Bajazeth* or a *Morad* commands his
" army, mixes in the fight, and ſup-
" ports the ſplendor of the throne by his
" own ſhining qualities, ſo long is the
" *Oſman* empire in no danger; but all
" the

" the imperial lines in *China*," continued the intelligent ſcholar of *Liewang*, " were raiſed by heroes, and detruded " during the reigns of vicious profli- " gates. The pleaſures of the *Harem*, " the intoxicating gratification of ſenſual " appetites, muſt in time reduce the " ſultans: their vaſt empire will be " diſmembered, and every paſhaw will " infallibly aſſume the dignity and " power of a ſultan."

Uſong cautiouſly avoided this flaw in the eaſtern governments. He excluded the ſoldiery from all civil employments: the governors of the provinces, the chief magiſtrates, the treaſurers, and moſt effectually the emperor's delegates, kept a vigilant eye over the army,

army, and would ſoon have brought to light any ſeditious thought or combination. *Uſong* objected to the chief commanders ſettling in the provinces; he induced them to live at court, and near his perſon. The military authority was ſubdivided into many branches, and entruſted to a number of officers. He preferred cohorts to legions.—" The " effects of diſcontent in a large body " are always dangerous and ſudden."

For the adminiſtration of domeſtic matters, he firſt enjoined the delegates to ſingle out an head for every village; and in every city a chief, for the immediate ordering and executing all municipal affairs, and ſeveral aſſeſſors for the direction of leſs important occurrences.

currences. Thus a *Daroga* was appointed to every large city, a *Calentar* to every leſſer town, and to every village an *Elderman* — Theſe magiſtrates were amenable to the power of the delegates, who were uſually choſen from among their number, and raiſed to that high poſt from leſſer offices, in which their ſkill and integrity had been tried and approved. *Uſong* inſiſted that all elections ſhould be referred to court: he knew the impoſſibility of directing himſelf all the minute concerns of his extenſive empire, and therefore authorized the governors and delegates to make all the inferior nominations; but he thought it requiſite that, in every inſtance, they ſhould expect that the emperor would examine into their motives

of

of election, and trace the validity of every circumſtance. He often undertook this ſcrutiny himſelf for different provinces, or elſe committed it to truſty counſellors: and an attempt to overreach him would always have been highly dangerous; for in ſuch caſes there were no hopes of pardon.

Theſe magiſtrates were alſo commiſſioned to receive the tax: and *Uſong*, in proportion to their rank, aſſigned them ſuch adequate ſtipends, as freed them from the temptation of applying to iniquitous proceedings for their ſufficient maintenance; but he left them no poſſibility of enriching themſelves by any other means.

Thus the friends of juſtice were now her miniſters.—All, in *Perſia*, had till now been arbitrary, and violence had been the only law. *Uſong* cauſed the ſtatutes of the wiſe *Nuſhirwan* to be collected, completed, and ſuch alterations to be made as the change of times required. To every court of juſtice he ſent a copy of this Code, to which the judges were ordered to conform. In the capital of each province he inſtituted a court of juſtice, in which he never admitted any of the other magiſtrates: "Juſtice ſhould be the ſole employ-"ment of a judge." Large ſalaries were appointed for their ſtate and maintenance, and the emperor himſelf treated them with deference and honourable diſtinction. All queſtions were decided

cided by the plurality of votes, and he that ſhewed moſt wiſdom and penetration had the precedency among them. Trivial matters were finally determined by this tribunal; but more important cauſes came on before the divan, and the chief juſticiaries of the crown: here the emperor often appeared unexpectedly in perſon, and ſeated on his throne, heard the pleas and evidences of both parties.

Thoſe who received preſents, a practice ſo common and pernicious in the eaſt, he puniſhed, not with death, for he was as ſparing of the blood of his ſubjects as of his own, but with expulſion and infamy. This law he maintained with inexorable rigour. He

alſo

alſo prohibited gifts of any value being brought to him; "The great, whoſe "preſents the emperor has accepted, "will find means to extort double the "equivalent from the people."

The delegates made a yearly viſitation of their provinces: they inſpected the books of record, and examined into ſome of the trials, and the ſentences pronounced thereon: if they found cauſe to cenſure the decrees of any judge, they warned him, and on repeated offences ſummoned him to court: his conduct was there enquired into by the chief juſticiaries, and often by the emperor himſelf; and in reiterated and atrocious caſes, he was diſcarded, and his guilt publiſhed to the whole empire.

" The nation has an inherent claim to " the juſtice of the ſovereign. The " whole nation," ſaid *Uſong*, " muſt be " made confident, that I endeavour to " ſcreen them from every injuſtice— " ignorance alſo is a vice, when it an- " noys the people."

Perſia reflected now on its halcyon days under the firſt emperors; " They " are reſtored," ſaid the grateful people—" A thouſand years has the empire " languiſhed ſince *Nuſhirwan* * and juſ- " tice have forſaken it; *Uſong* repairs " the loſs of both."

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* The great *Coſroes* of the *Greeks*, the conqueror of *Juſtinian*; whoſe victories are leſs extolled by the *Perſians*, than his great love of juſtice.

The

The military regulations perplexed the emperor. He was aware that a ſtanding army would deprive the land of its moſt uſeful cultivators, avert them from marriage, and confine them to mere temporary duties, which would obſtruct the conſtant and neceſſary functions of the more valuable ſubjects; and that the great charges a military eſtabliſhment abſolutely implies, muſt give riſe to heavy taxes, and prove a grievous burden upon the nation.

And yet *Uſong* perceived that *Perſia* could not ſubſiſt without ſuch ſtanding forces. The power of the *Oſmans* was ſpreading towards the weſt. The dwindling *Byzantian* empire was on the verge of ruin: the heir of *Conſtantine* was now

ſtripped of all his territories without the walls of his capital: an audacious cadi had erected his tribunal contiguous to the imperial throne. *Uſong* prudently conjectured that no ſooner ſhould the tottering *Byzantium* be finally ſubdued, but the ambition of the conquerors would prompt them to extend their power towards the eaſt. He had experienced the formidable valour of thoſe enemies, and was convinced that *Perſia* could not reſiſt them, unleſs an army was kept in conſtant exerciſe. He ſaw that to enable this army to face the *Jenjitſheries*, a ſteady infantry and fire-arms were abſolutely requiſite; but theſe arms were ſcarce known in *Perſia*, and the people ſhewed great reluctance

reluctance to engage in the foot ſervice.

Choraſſan laid open to the *Uſbeck Tartars*, a people divided under twenty chiefs, with whom no laſting peace could be maintained; who, though incapable of conquering countries, yet cruelly moleſted the inhabitants of their frontiers. Theſe frontiers required a light and nimble cavalry.

The *Afgans* were dangerous neighbours to *Candahar*. They were a martial people, who had conquered and founded ſeveral kingdoms in *India*, where, under the name of *Patans*, they ſtill continued the terror of the idolaters. Here alſo the beſt troops were neceſſary

to keep in awe a nation much hardier than the *Perſian*.

Uſong ſought the means of ſecuring his empire, without draining it either of riches or of men. He reflected on the *Curds* *, a keen inhoſpitable people, free and impatient of controul, who dwelt in tents on the highlands near the weſtern borders of *Perſia*, and ſubſiſted upon the ſole produce of their cattle. The name of *Uſong* facilitated all friendly

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* The *Europeans* inſtead of *Curds* call them *Turcomans*; but thoſe wild rovers have always been thought unfit for military diſcipline, whilſt the *Cortſhi* were long conſidered as the braveſt people of *Aſia*. *Saladin* and *Kelaunus*, two anceſtors of *Egyptian* ſultans, were both *Curds*.

negocia-

negociations; he concluded a treaty with theſe ſavage mountaineers: they were enſured the full enjoyment of their liberty within their boundaries; and on their hand engaged to furniſh the empire with ſeveral thouſands of warlike men, who being trained to arms, ſoon became the flower of the *Perſian* ſoldiery—A draught of the moſt vigorous, he appointed for the imperial life guard. The reſt lived in tents near the weſtern frontiers, in conſtant diſcipline, and the practice of military exerciſes. Thoſe frontiers were thus ſecured by the beſt of ramparts, the valorous breaſts of a martial people: and *Uſong* rejoiced in having thus, by eaſy gratuities, for a moderate hire, and eſpecially by the ſure hopes of preferment, acquired a body of

troops that would ſpare the beſt blood of *Perſia*.

The *Georgians* were not then ſubject to *Perſia*; but the certainty of the pay, the emulating honour of ſerving under the greateſt monarch of *Aſia*, the infallible rewards of ſervices performed, brought multitudes of them down from their mountains. *Uſong* formed them into a body of cavalry, which proved the beſt in *Aſia*, and to which he committed the cuſtody and defence of *Candahar*.

In *Choraſſan*, he fortified many ſtrong holds on advantageous eminences, to which the inhabitants, in caſes of ſudden eruptions of the *Uſbeck Tartars*, could

could fly for ſhelter with their children and effects. On the borders he diſtributed the *Perſian* cavalry, which, being mounted on the ſtouteſt horſes, armed with ſabres of the hardeſt ſteel, and commanded by a prince who generouſly rewarded every merit, ſoon became ſuperior to the terrific *Uſbecks*. *Uſong* cauſed piles of wood to be reared on the tops of mountains, at equal diſtances, and guards to be lodged near them, who, on an invaſion of the vagrant *Tartars*, had orders to ſet thoſe piles on fire; by which means in leſs than a hour, the alarm could eaſily be ſpread throughout the land. The *Perſians* were then to aſſemble at appointed places, and march againſt the enemy, whoſe ſtation the firſt aſcending ſmoke betrayed.

The

The *Uſbecks*, in whom the fear of death was not overawed by ſentiments of honour, ſoon loſt all inclination of expoſing themſelves to the *Perſian* ſabres, and deſiſted from their wonted inroads.

In order to inſtill a martial ſpirit into theſe troops, he aſſembled them in his yearly circuits. They performed in his preſence their various evolutions, fired, attacked, beſieged, and repulſed the aſſaults of their ſham antagoniſts. He diſtributed prizes among the common ſoldiers, and conferred turbans, palm branches, laurel wreaths, and honourable medals. He preferred the officers, and raiſed the moſt deſerving to the higheſt ranks; and this he did without fear or danger of proſtituting his favours,

vours, for he himſelf attended to each peculiar merit.

But *Uſong* had a greater object ſtill in view. He was unwilling to intruſt the ſecurity of his empire to mercenary ſtrangers, whoſe ambition might avail itſelf of the natural imbecility of his raw and unexperienced *Perſians*. He undertook to form each *Perſian* for the defence of his own country: he ordained, that in the intervals when agriculture does not require a conſtant labour, one third part of all the men of proper age and ſize ſhould meet in arms, every ſeventh day, the day of reſt, learn the manœuvres, and ſubmit to all the regulations by which the military art forms the moſt warlike ſoldiers. Thus

the

the whole nation became imperceptibly, and without loſs of uſeful time, practiſed in the uſe of arms. Their captains and commanders were choſen from the number of thoſe brave warriors, who under *Uſong* had delivered *Perſia*. The emperor countenanced them no leſs than the regulars; he frequently reviewed them, and inſtituted prizes and honorary rewards for their encouragement. Each hundredth man, drawn from the innumerable multitude of *Perſians* capable of bearing arms, being incorporated, compoſed a reſpectable body of ſtrong and able men*, which, being ſtationed

* *Shach Abbas* muſtered at one time, in preſence of the foreign miniſters, ſixty thouſand men, not one of whom was a regular ſoldier.

in

in the forts and cities, performed the garriſon duties in times of peace. Every third year thoſe that applied, received their diſmiſſion, and others were enliſted to fill up the vacancy. Thoſe who diſtinguiſhed themſelves were received into the body of guards, richly paid, and gradually preferred to higher ranks. Thus did the *Perſians* acquire ſome dexterity in the uſe of arms, which on an emergency, they could ſoon bring to a degree bordering on perfection. Even their minds were invigorated by the confidence the emperor placed in this militia; they conſidered themſelves no longer as the ſlaves of rigid maſters, but as the warriors and avengers of their country's cauſe.

Indefatigable

Indefatigable in his labour, always cheerful and ready in fulfilling the duties of his high ſtation, *Uſong* was daily improving the conſtitution of his empire, when *Riva* returned from *Venice* with a numerous train of attendants, and a great ſtore of fire-arms.

This truſty ſervant had delivered *Uſong*'s letters to the duke and ſenate, whereby the emperor notified to the republic his exaltation to the throne of *Perſia*, and thankfully acknowledged the friendly treatment he had received from ſeveral nobles. He propoſed an alliance, and inſinuated that *Perſia* had no leſs reaſon than the *Venetians* to be jealous of the ſucceſsful and ambitious *Oſmans*. He requeſted a ſupply of fire-arms from *Breſcia*,

Breſcia, and ſome ſkilful workmen to introduce that manufacture in his own dominions.

Venice perceived how cloſely their intereſt was combined with that of *Perſia*. A reſpectful anſwer aſſured the emperor of their reciprocal deſire to cultivate his friendſhip; and promiſed an embaſſy to his court, to deliberate, with greater freedom, on the mutual advantage of the two ſtates. *Riva* obtained the arms and artiſts.

The ſultan of *Egypt*, equally alarmed at the progreſs of the *Oſman* empire, readily opened the *Syrian* harbours to the embaſſador; and the rejoiced *Uſong* diſtributed the arms among his guards—

The

The artificers were ſupplied, in a ſeparate and convenient building, with iron, ſteel, and all other materials requiſite for their various performances, and aſſiduouſly employed themſelves in finiſhing all ſorts of fire-arms, and in caſting the large metal cannons, which then already determined the iſſue of battles, and raſed the bulwarks of the ſtrongeſt holds.

Among the letters from the weſt *Uſong* found one from *Zeno*, who had now taken his ſeat in the ſupreme council of the republic. He expreſſed his ſincere joy at the ſplendid aggrandizement of the *Mongalian* prince, and intimated, that he hoped once more to partake of the delightful converſe of his former friend.

But

But tidings of greater moment gave double ſcope to *Uſong*'s happineſs. *Puldan*, a *Nowian* * of his own race, arrived on a ſwift courſer, and brought letters from the faithful *Scherin*. This friend of his kind maſter had travelled through *Atſhin* to *Quangtſhew*, where he repaired to the houſe of the merchant who had formerly, at the requeſt of *Liewang*, ſupplied *Uſong* with the neceſſaries for his voyage. He found him yet alive, and heard that the *Zongtu* of *Schenſi* was, at the unanimous deſire of the two provinces, ſtill continued, by the emperor, in his poſt. *Scherin* arrived at *Singan*, and had the joyful ſatisfaction of finding that *Liewang*'s

* A prince of the blood of *Zengis*.

daughter was yet unmarried. Many noble ſuitors had applied for this bright ornament of their illuſtrious houſe; they had offered treaſures for the poſſeſſion of this precious gem; but, for reaſons inſcrutable and pre-ordained, all their propoſals had been rejected.

Scherin was ſo well known in the palace of the Vice-roy, that he ſoon obtained an audience. With reſpectful deference, he delivered a letter to the diſtinguiſhed ſage. "USONG, emperor "of *Perſia*, to the worthy LIEWANG. "The conjectures of a wiſe man are "prophecies. *Uſong* reigns over one of "the largeſt empires of the world; "but he deſpairs of happineſs, un-

"leſs

" leſs the virtuous *Lioſua* ſhares his " throne."

Scherin diſplayed at the ſame time the preſents of the emperor, which were expreſſive of the high regard he entertained for *Liewang*. Several books treating on the laws and hiſtories of weſtern nations, were of the number. *Scherin*, who had ſhared in the excellent education of his prince, was the interpreter of theſe works; which the wiſe *Zongtu* received as a new and unexpected treaſure, more valued by him than the choiceſt pearls of *Bahrein*, ſince they made him acquainted with the progreſs of the ſciences among diſtant nations, that had in *China* the reputation of rude barbarians.

The friend of *Uſong*, knowing the formal circumſpection that prevails in *China*, did not expect an immediate anſwer. He availed himſelf of the time *Liewang* would take to conſider of the propoſal, and viſited *Mongalia*. He flew to the tent of the old *Timurtaſh*, and imparted to him, and to the yet mournful princeſs, the tranſporting news of *Uſong*'s preſervation and elevated dignity. He delivered the letters, and laid before them the gifts the emperor ſent them. The bliſsful ſatisfaction to hear, after having for many years lamented the loſs of a ſon ſo worthy their moſt tender love, that he was yet living, and in a ſtation no ways inferior to the glory of his great anceſtor the mighty *Zengis*, drew tears of gladneſs from the eyes of

of the exulting parents, and filled the tribe with univerſal mirth and genuine feſtivity. Several *Nowians* prepared to go and offer their ſervices to their illuſtrious kinſman, and thouſands of brave *Mongalians* accompanied them. This numerous train approached the road to *Candahar*, and waited for the empreſs near the lake *Tſariſh*; for *Scherin* had owned to the old *Timurtaſh*, that he hoped to conduct to *Uſong*'s arms his new-intended bride.

After ſome months, *Scherin* returned to *Singan*. He brought letters, in which *Timurtaſh* addreſſed the *Zongtu* for his daughter; and ſignified his wiſh, that ſo excellent a princeſs might be ingrafted in the race of *Zengis*.

Liewang doubted not the conſent of the fair *Lioſua*, who had now attained her eighteenth year, and had hitherto, by numberleſs evaſions, diverted her indulgent father from every proffered nuptial. The paſſion of the prince of *Kokonor*, his ſhining accompliſhments, and the majeſtic elegance of his figure, had made the deepeſt impreſſion on the ſoft boſom of the conſiderate fair. *Uſong*, compared to the *Chineſe*, appeared the lord of the reſt of mankind: the trivial virtues which the morals of *China* are able to compaſs, vaniſhed all before the ſplendor that beamed from the natural qualities of the new *Perſian* monarch.

And

And yet *Liewang* propoſed the marriage as a reſolution that depended merely on his daughter's option. "I "know," ſaid he, "that thy hand is "at the diſpoſal of a father; but the "heart is thine: never ſhall my tender "love conſent to an alliance thy heart "diſowns."

The *Zongtu* had his apprehenſions. The hoſtile race of *Iwen*, of which *Uſong* was one of the heads, gave umbrage to the ſovereign *Ming*: and though whatever concerns the women in *China* is never divulged beyond the limits of their recluſe abodes, yet *Liewang* could not expect that a marriage, which was ſo freely talked of among the *Mon-*

lians, ſhould long remain a ſecret at the court of *Pekin*.

The princeſs, bluſhing at the propoſal of her indulgent parent, caſt down her eyes, and kneeling ſaid, "To admit a branch of the *Iwens* into "his family, may expoſe my gracious "father to dangerous ſuſpicions. Let "the will of the emperor be con-"ſulted."

Swen Zong was a good prince, untainted by the degenerate infection that then already ſpread, and foreboded the downfal of the race of *Ming*. "The "ſon of *Iwen*," anſwered the emperor, "rules in a far diſtant country; how "can he moleſt the empire? *Liewang* may

" may freely diſpoſe of the hand of " the fair princeſs:" for ſo he ſtiled her, being iſſued from his own imperial race.

All the ſcruples of the *Zongtu* were now vaniſhed. Though in giving up his daughter, he parted with the ſole comfort of his drooping life; though he anticipated the gloom of a ſolitary old age, when once deprived of the ſoothing blandiſhments of his amiable darling; yet he was too wiſe to prefer the ſatisfaction of the few days he could yet hope to live, to the ſeries of happy years a blooming daughter had before her—*Lioſua* promiſed implicit obedience, and the Vice-roy ordered *Scherin* into his preſence. " Here is the an-

" ſwer

" ſwer to the *Perſian* monarch — A " throne ſhould not have rent me from " my child; but ſhe follows the charms " of virtue." The *Zongtu* was informed that *Uſong* governed the empire of *Cyrus* with the wiſdom of its firſt ſovereigns.

The princeſs was now preparing, with all the pomp the cuſtoms of the country preſcribed, for her departure; but ſhe provided not only for the ſumptuous attire and ſtate in which an imperial bride was to appear; ſhe conſulted *Scherin* on the ſuperiority of the *Chineſe* over the *Perſians* in the improvements of art, and determined to bring a more precious dower to her future

future conſort, than the moſt valuable pearls and rubies.

Scherin laid at her feet the preſents of the emperor; the coſtly gems, the princely ornaments, and all the many rarities his repeated victories had acquired him. But the tender *Lioſua* found in *Uſong*'s letter what ſhe prized far beyond the greateſt ſtore of diamonds. "Fortune has raiſed *Uſong* to "the throne, but what is the throne, if "virtue denies him her chaſte and ſooth "ing love? Indeed," ſaid the ſoftly affected charmer, with a new acquired frankneſs, "indeed the heart of *Lioſua* "admired the early dawn of *Uſong*'s "virtue; what muſt ſhe feel now, that "his exalted merit ſhines forth from

"its

" its high eminence throughout the " univerſe."

The day, the painful day arrived, when *Lioſua* was to take her laſt farewell of her honoured parent. " Be- " ſtow a parting bleſſing, gracious Sir, " on thine anguiſhed child," ſaid ſhe kneeling, and melting in a flood of tears. " Ah, how imperfect is all " earthly bliſs! Love thy *Lioſua*, Oh " love me ever; ever ſhall I remain thy " grateful loving daughter."——The hoary *Liewang* burſt from her arms; nor could all the dignity of wiſdom ſuppreſs his tears.

She departed with her retinue, and accompanied by the faithful *Scherin*; who, by the means of her women, related

lated to her the many glorious actions of her future lord, and thus aſſuaged the ſadneſs that ſtill preyed upon her ſpirits. She met near the lake *Tſariſh* the *Nowians*, and the train that attended to eſcort her into *Perſia*. The manners of her country prohibited her appearing to them; but a thouſand triumphant ſhouts, uttered with the wildneſs of unpoliſhed nature, reſounded daily round her palankin, which her new ſubjects joyfully environed. She drew near the frontiers of *Candahar*, when *Poldan* went on to bear unto the emperor the wiſhed-for news of her approach.

The heart of *Uſong* bounded at the glad tidings of the *Nowian*. He preſſed him to his boſom, and aſſured him of

his conſtant favour and protection. "Now, *Dſhuneid*," ſaid he, "my "friend, now am I truly rewarded for "all my toils and labour: henceforth "ſhall I gladly devote my every day "to the cares of government, ſince "every evening the ſweet converſe of "the wife, the virtuous *Lioſua* will "await me; who, ſuperior to all vulgar "dalliance, will cheer my wearied ſoul "by her endearing ſpeeches, equally "expreſſive of the fondneſs of her "heart, and the ſerene delicacy of "her accompliſhed mind."

He proclaimed throughout all *Perſia*, that the emperor demanded no ſubſidy, and ſhould order no expenſive rejoicings at his approaching nuptials: that his bride

bride was too generous to expect public ſolemnities, which, though pleaſing to the people, were yet a burden to themſelves: but that he ſhould conſider it as a proof of their affection, if they would welcome their new empreſs with flowery garlands, ſongs, dances, and all other artleſs demonſtrations of a ſincere and unallayed hilarity.

The *Perſians* eagerly embraced the opportunity of diſplaying their boundleſs veneration for their indulgent emperor. No ſooner had *Lioſua* entered the frontiers of *Perſia*, but ſhe travelled through continued ranges of gay and verdant arches, of tufted may-trees, ſhady bloſſomed boughs, and a triumphing multitude of jovial villagers. The loneli-

lieſt and moſt dreary mountains were crouded by a vaſt concourſe of her ſubjects, who loudly proclaimed the glory of their ſovereign. The faireſt country laſſes appeared in feſtive rows around her palankin, and beſtrewed it with the ſweeteſt flowers: ſhe often, with a charming condeſcenſion, called the comelieſt of them into her preſence, ſhewed herſelf to them, and diſmiſſed them with curious *Chineſe* preſents.

The emperor was in the prime of youthful ardour: his heart flew to meet his beloved charmer—but he forbore to treſpaſs on the manners of her country, which debar the impatient bridegroom from the ſight of his future bride until the marriage rites are celebrated. The

ardently

ardently desired fair one arrived at length; and the *Seder* of *Persia* received the nuptial vows of the noble pair, whilst *Schiras* rung with unintermitted shouts of joy and approbation. The discreet *Liosua* raised now her veil; and *Usong* beheld once more the sweet enchanting features, on which virtue and love shone forth predominant. She was now in the bloom of her years, and never had *China* produced a form more exquisite; but the noble soul that animated all her charms, exalted her beyond comparison.—She attempted to fall at the emperor's feet; but he, raising her, tenderly pressed her in his arms. "Welcome," said he, "thou "noblest gift of kind auspicious hea-"ven: rule ever over the loyal *Per-*

" *ſians*, and over the heart of thy fond,
" thy happy *Uſong*."

The emperor fixed the reſidence of his conſort at *Schiras*. The genial ſoftneſs of the air; the purling brooks of limpid water; the exuberant fertility of nature, which plenteouſly produced the ſweeteſt roſes and moſt luſcious grapes; the pleaſant gardens that abounded with the choiceſt fruits and the moſt fragrant flowers; the profuſion of royal pomgranate-trees and noble oranges ripening into gold, rendered this city the moſt delightful ſeat in *Perſia*. *Uſong* ſecured it againſt hoſtile invaſions by the ſtrongeſt ramparts.

Lioſua

Lioſua was now intent on fulfilling her premeditated project. She cauſed the dry and pebbled ſpots, unfit for grazing, to be planted with even rows of mulberries; which, being kept under the diſcipline of the pruning-knife, ſupplied the food of ſilk-worms, and afforded ſhelter for that induſtrious inſect to hatch, to grow, and ſpin its curious texture. She appointed experienced *Chineſe* to teach the *Perſians* the moſt advantageous culture of the ſilk; and took pleaſure herſelf in inſtructing the female novices by her example. "Thus em-"ployed," ſaid ſhe, "did the conſort "of the god-like *Fohi* ſpend her days."

At times ſhe was carried out, ſurrounded by her attendants, who, in

compliance to the cuſtoms, kept the people at an awful diſtance. She pitched upon a graſſy plain, wherein the waters of the *Corremderrhe* * could be abundantly conveyed. Here ſhe ordered houſes to be erected for the ſpinners, bleachers, weavers, and painters of the fineſt cottons; a commodity with which *Coromandel* alone had hitherto ſupplied all the eaſtern markets.

The ſkilful workmen ſhe had brought from *China* diſcovered the two kinds of ſoil, of which one would turn to glaſs, if not prevented by a mixture of the other: proper furnaces were built; and hence aroſe a manufacture, which,

* The river that runs through *Schiras*.

though

though it did not attain to the perfection of the *Chineſe* wares, yet furniſhed even the emperor's table with plates and vaſes, that ſupplied the place of gold and ſilver.

The benevolent princeſs made diligent ſearch after the moſt wretched and indigent: to the blind, to the infirm, to the feeble and helpleſs widows and orphans ſhe ſent weekly relief. — She made enquiries about the country, after the moſt diligent labourer, and the moſt careful mother; and her liberality reached baſhful merit in the humbleſt cot.—Her benefits were conferred without oſtentation, without ever expecting the return of thankful acknowledgments.

The ladies, whom their rank admitted into her preſence, were taught by her to value virtue above all other things. She extolled to them the comforts of conſcious innocence; the dignity of a wedded wife, whoſe only ſtudy is the ſatisfaction of her lord; the delights of domeſtic harmony; the levity of outward pomp and ornaments, which may dazzle the eyes of the vulgar, but argue a want of the more weighty embelliſhments of the ſoul. *Lioſua* was the moſt amiable promoter of virtuous habits: the natural amenity of her addreſs rendered her precepts attractive, and her example eaſy.

Daily ſhe deviſed ſome new and innocent amuſement for her conſort, when,

when, after the fatigues of public buſineſs, he ſought repoſe in her inviting arms. She repeated to him what new and memorable things ſhe had read. Her women were taught to rehearſe, in alternate dialogue, the moſt affecting inſtances of the ſublimeſt virtues. She collected all kinds of rarities in which *Uſong* took delight; uncommon works of nature, of art, and human fancy.—Even the contraſt between the gentle meekneſs of the princeſs, and *Uſong*'s manly ardour and the curioſity of *Lioſua* to be inſtructed in the cuſtoms and ſtrange productions of the weſtern climates, added novelty and ſpirit to their placid converſations.

She bore already the hopes of *Perſia* within her boſom, when *Zeno* arrived from *Venice* in a public character. He congratulated the new emperor, not only as the embaſſador of a friendly ſtate, but as a ſincere admirer of the diſtinguiſhed virtues of the noble *Zengide*. He brought *Uſong* ſeveral preſents; among which none were more acceptable than the new books, impreſſed, not by pens, but by an art which even *Lioſua* preferred to the inventions of her countrymen; ſince here, the ſame types could ſerve repeatedly a thouſand times, whilſt the engraved tablets of the *Chineſe* admitted of no variety of combinations.

Zeno

Zeno brought alſo new inventions to accelerate the uſe of fire-arms; and heavier artillery, which threw out leſſer balls, but could be managed with much greater eaſe and rapidity. He alſo communicated all the new contrivances of the fertile *Europeans*, that could any ways contribute, either to the conveniency of life, or to the ſplendor of a court.

He ſignified to the emperor the truce *Venice* had concluded with the renowned *Morad*—Though the republic could not behold with an indifferent eye the ſpreading power of the *Oſmans*, yet could ſhe not withhold from the wiſe ſultan the veneration that is due to genuine virtue: and indeed he was as formidable

formidable an adverſary, as he was conſtant in his friendſhip.

The ſenate, however, ſtrongly repreſented to the emperor the danger that impended both on *Europe* and on *Aſia* from the victorious arms of that aſpiring race. *Morad* had now ſubdued *Thracia* and *Macedonia*, and transferred his reſidence to *Edrene* * ; whence he ſtruck terror into the neighbouring *Conſtantinople*. *Byzantium* was now defenceleſs, and deſtitute of hopes. *Europe* was governed by a number of contentious princes, who, for the moſt trifling conſiderations, raiſed mortal feuds among themſelves, which, at times, were ſeem-

* *Adrianople.*

ingly

ingly ſuſpended by ſhort and precarious conventions, but never totally extinguiſhed. None of thoſe princes had either by their deeds, or their endeavours, excited the hopes of becoming one day the aſſertors of public liberty againſt the threatening *Oſmans*. *Caſtriot* and *Hunniades* were rather dauntleſs rovers, than potent monarchs, and their deaths freed *Morad* of every check to his ambitious views. *Venice* indeed was vigilant, and in conſtant readineſs; and her navy awed yet the *Oſman* fleets; but her land-forces were by no means able to cope with the numerous armies of thoſe hardy veterans.

Still was the ſenate actuated by the ſound and ſalutary maxim, rather to expoſe

expoſe themſelves to any peril, than to adopt a meaſure that might reflect diſhonour on their country. " Danger," ſaid the nobles, " is not averted by " baſe expedients; they rather aug- " ment it, by the courage they inſpire " into the adverſaries, and the con- " tempt of all the neighbouring powers, " for which they furniſh but too juſt " and fatal grounds. This truth has " *Byzantium* unhappily experienced. " Every ignominious peace has impair- " ed her ſmall remains of vigour: ſhe " is now reduced without the loſs of " battles: *Morad*'s next campaign a- " gainſt her muſt be the laſt, and " prove her final ruin."

The

The nobles ſuggeſted to the puiſſant monarch, how nearly the danger menaced his own frontiers: they admoniſhed him reſpectfully, as the ſole protector of the general balance of the univerſe, to prepare his forces during that peaceful interval, that he might be ready for the war *Perſia* could not long avoid. They tendered their cordial friendſhip and aſſiſtance; and offered all they could contribute to ſtrengthen and ſupport him.

Uſong heard their propoſal with cautious deliberation. To attack the generous *Morad*, unprovoked, claſhed with his love of juſtice; neither was he prepared for ſo daring an enterprize. His *Perſians* were averſe to the uſe of fire-

arms;

arms; the foot ſervice they abhorred, not from any fear of danger, but becauſe the fatigue of marches in hot climates is the greateſt evil at which the eaſtern nations grievouſly repine. He had as yet been able to prevail on a very ſmall number of *Curds* and *Perſians* to form themſelves under his own eye into a regular body, and to dedicate their time to the manual exerciſe of fire-arms.

His enterprizing ſpirit was not however daunted. "By inceſſant labour "all obſtacles are at length ſurmount-"ed, that ſeem at firſt arduous and "invincible.—A brook ſolicited a paſ-"ſage through an obdurate rock; the "rock ſilently oppoſed itſelf; but the "brock

" brook was not diſmayed, he toiled " whole ages: at length, he wrought " himſelf a narrow channel; at length " the perſevering brook forced himſelf " a free paſſage through an obdurate " rock." Thus did *Uſong* animate the tardieſt among his *Perſians*.

Great pieces of ordnance were now caſt; but the *Perſians* doubted the poſſibility of conveying them through the narrow paſſes, and over the high mountains that ſkirt the empire. The emperor ordered alſo ſmaller cannon to be moulded, which, in caſe of need, could be loaded upon camels, and would be of infinite ſervice in the day of battle.

The

The armourers met with numberleſs difficulties. —All the arts are ſiſters; they cannot flouriſh ſingle—many neceſſary utenſils were wanting to the *Europeans:* the change of climate cut off ſeveral of them; and the ſurvivors deſponded in their labour, not being encouraged by the ſtimulating hopes of arriving at any degree of eminent perfection in their performances.

Uſong confeſſed his doubts to *Zeno*, and expreſſed his truſt that the republic would ſupply him with able artificers, proper tools, and neceſſary ſtores of ammunition and artillery. The preſent workmen he encouraged by liberal gifts, by friendly viſits, and, more effectually, by frequent inſtances

of

of his own knowledge in their profeſſions.—Nothing excites an artiſt more, than the ſure confidence that he works for an intelligent judge, who knows how to value his ſkill and induſtry.

The time *Uſong* had fixed for the ſurvey of his empire was now at hand. He reſolved to extend this progreſs as far as *Erivan*; and to viſit *Irak*, *Aderbeitſhan*, *Diarbekir*, and *Algezira*. *Dſhuneid*, *Zeno*, many *Nowians*, and a ſelect retinue of the moſt intelligent *Perſians* accompanied him. They were all mounted on luſty ſteeds, martially accoutred, and unincumbered by the wonted pomp of eaſtern monarchs. *Uſong* accepted no where of any entertainments; lodged with none of the

principal inhabitants of the provinces; but lived in tents, and avoided all the charges that ultimately fall heavy upon the people whenever their kings feaſt in ſplendid wantonneſs. "The ſubjects "muſt rejoice at the ſight of their ſove-"reign," ſaid *Uſong*, "they muſt not "dread his viſit: the pride of a courtly "ſtate would only ſerve to aggravate "the load my people feels already."

He broke from the embraces of his doting conſort, and haſted to *Chehelminar*, once the imperial ſeat of the mighty *Hyſtaſpides*; ſituated on a fertile level, diverſified by freſh winding brooks, and ſpontaneouſly productive of the moſt beautiful and odoriferous flowers. *Zeno* gazed with wondrous admiration

tion on this ſtately pile of ruins, the proud remains of a ſtupendous palace, whoſe antiquity exceeded the oldeſt record, and whoſe gigantic bulk ſeemed far ſuperior to the ſtrength of man.—On the rock were hewn, in Coloſſal ſize, the glorious deeds of the old *Perſian* heroes.

Uſong found among theſe old monuments ſeveral emblems he had before obſerved in *Egypt*, and particularly the winged ball, which ſeemed to him to expreſs a type of the divinity. He conjectured, that the huge ſhafts of columns, which ſeveral men could ſcarce encompaſs, were part of the vaſt edifice that once contained the throne of *Cyrus*: and

Zeno, who had a refined taſte in the politer arts, could not indeed admire the ſymmetry and elegance of deſign that appeared in theſe remains; but he was aſtoniſhed at the neat ſculpture and high poliſh of the hardeſt ſtones.—They all agreed that no modern prince, although he were poſſeſſed of ſufficient treaſures, would ever be able to attempt ſuch an immenſe ſtructure; ſince even the moſt ingenious nations were deſtitute of means to lead and raiſe ſuch large and maſſy weights.

Whilſt the emperor and his retinue were contemplating theſe venerable fragments of marble and of porphyry, *Dſhuneid* perceived a blaze aſcending from

from an adjacent barren mountain*. He enquired the reaſon why ſo large a fire was entertained on ſo wild and dreary a rock? The *Perſians* anſwered, that it was a perpetual fire at which the *Guebres* performed their religious ſervice. *Dſhuneid* felt that he was an *Alid*, and ſtarted: "Is "it poſſible," ſaid he, "that the em- "peror, who adores the Supreme Be- "ing, can tolerate theſe profane wor- "ſhippers of created elements?

Uſong ſmiled: "Theſe ſtately ruins "were once the dwellings of the *Magi*; "and *Cyrus* was a *Guebre*. His ſublime

* Several fiery temples of the *Guebres* are ſeen round *Chehelminar*.

" virtues toiled through a long and glo-
" rious life, to reſtore the *Perſian* li-
" berty; and after twenty centuries do
" we now enjoy the fruits of his ſuc-
" ceſsful labour. But in good earneſt,"
continued he, addreſſing his zealous
friend, " ſhould *Perſia* forego ſeveral
" thouſands of induſtrious hands, baniſh
" her beſt labourers, depopulate whole
" provinces, becauſe the poor *Guebres*
" err in their belief? did not *Ali*, did
" not *Mohamet* tolerate the chriſtians,
" though they looked upon them as
" idolaters? did not *Omar* himſelf juſ-
" tify the humane decrees of *Abu Obei-*
" *dah*, who ſpared the lives of the
" chriſtians, and wreſted the ſword
" out of the gory hands of the invin-
" cible

" cible *Caled* *, becauſe he was too
" laviſh of the blood of infidels?

" More than one half of *Perſia*," added he, " is an uncultivated waſte.
" Nature has been bountiful; but the
" ſufficient number of inhabitants are
" wanting to improve and to enjoy her
" liberal favours. Laborious hands
" muſt reap the plenteous products
" of the earth, and adapt them to
" the uſe for which they are intended,
" the ſupport and recreation of the
" human ſpecies. The *Guebres* are a
" peaceful and inoffenſive people:
" ſome of them may perhaps be brought
" by us to acknowledge an infinite and
" ſelf-exiſtent God; whereas by har-

* See *Oakley's Arabian* hiſtory.

" raſſing thoſe who perſiſt in the wor-
" ſhip of corporeal deities, our ends
" might not be anſwered; and we
" ſhould improvidently compel great
" numbers of them to ſeek refuge in
" the neighbouring *Hindoſtan.*"

Uſong paſſed through the irriguous and ſmiling regions that ſurround *Mayn*; through the ancient and fertile *Yezdekaſt*, productive of the fineſt corn; and came to the wide extended *Iſpahan.* " This city," ſaid he, " is the natural " metropolis of *Perſia.* Its advanta-" geous ſituation in the center of the " empire, facilitates the communica-" tion with all the frontier towns; and " the *Senderud* would eaſily ſupply the " wants of many thouſands of aſſem-

" bled

" bled *Perſians*, by the inexhauſtible " fertility it procures to the contigu- " ous plain." But the ſoftneſs of the air, whoſe temperate warmth the feeble conſtitution of *Lioſua* could not forego, gave *Schiras* the preference: and the wars ſoon after called the emperor away to *Tabris*.

The ſilk-manufactures at *Caſhan* attracted the monarch's notice. Hence the fineſt ſilks, whoſe texture exceeded thoſe of all other nations, were ſent to moſt of the eaſtern marts: and hence did *Uſong* procure the gloſſy velvets, interwoven with human figures, which he preſented to the republic; and which forced the confeſſion from that ingenious ſeat of the weſtern arts, that they had no

hands

hands able to match the ſkill of the *Perſian* weavers.

Uſong had at *Caſhan* an unwiſhed-for opportunity of proving himſelf worthy to fill the throne of the juſt *Nuſhirwan*. *Zeno*, one evening, perceived him much dejected: "What tremendous ſtroke "of adverſe fortune can ſhake the "undaunted ſoul of *Uſong*?"—"To-"morrow my friend ſhall ſee it," anſwered the emperor. He convened the divan in the caſtle of the ancient kings: The princes and grandees of *Perſia* ſtood near the throne, and an immenſe concourſe of people ſurrounded the gates of the palace. *Muſtaſſem*, a gardener who lived in the ſuburbs of *Caſhan*, was introduced into the hall. "Look round

"thee,

" thee, *Muſtaſſem*; is the offender here?" The *Perſian* fell on his knees: " There " he is," ſaid he, pointing to one of the *Nowians*, a captain in the emperor's guards, whoſe name was *Culkas*.

" *Culkas*, my couſin, is this true?" ſaid the emperor in a ſolemn tone no *Perſian* had, till then, experienced from him. The *Nowian* ſtood diſmayed, his eyes fixed to the ground; and his ſilence plainly confeſſed his guilt.

" *Culkas*," continued *Uſong*, " we " are not come from the banks of the " *Kokonor* to oppreſs this people. Hea- " ven, in placing me on the throne, has " appointed me his vicegerent. Redreſs " the injury thou haſt done; marry

" the

" the gardener's daughter; aſſign her
" a portion equal to what thou ſhouldſt
" have offered to a princeſs of the
" *Zengide* race.—To-morrow I expect
" the proofs of thy obedience."

The *Nowian* proſtrated himſelf; and retired, with the appearance of unfeigned contrition and ſubmiſſive humility.

The following day he appeared, and with him *Muſtaſſem*. " Here," ſaid *Culkas*, " is the contract, here the ſettled
" portion."

" Is *Muſtaſſem* content?" he bowed:
" Not ſo the law—*Culkas*," ſaid the emperor with a ſtern aſpect that ſhook

ſhook the penitent tranſgreſſor, " *Perſia*
" has appointed me to be her judge:
" juſtice is the ſacred pledge heaven
" has depoſited in my avenging hands.
" Shall the ſpotleſs innocence of free-
" men's daughters be violated before
" the emperor's face, and ſhall his an-
" ger not be kindled? I will not ſhed
" the blood of the great *Zengis*; but
" fly, *Culkas*, ſeek ſome diſtant country,
" where tyranny exerts deſpotic ſway;
" and where the great may, with im-
" punity, trample on the honour of
" the weak and unprotected: for ever
" ſhun my ſight and *Perſia*." —The *Nowian* fled to the ſavage *Uſbecks*.

At the friendly evening meal, the emperor related what *Dſhuneid* and *Zeno* had

had partly conjectured. 'I took a 'ſolitary ride,' ſaid he, 'and was 'ſuddenly ſtopped by loud exclama-'tions of ſorrow, which proceeded 'from a delightful garden, ſtocked 'with a profuſion of the faireſt flowers. 'I was amazed to hear ſuch lamenta-'tions aſcending from a place that 'ſeemed dedicated to innocence, and 'tranquil eaſe: I ſent for the mourn-'ful inhabitants.'—"Sir," "ſaid the "anguiſhed father, who took me for "an officer of the guard," "one of "your brethren has torn my daughter "from my arms; ſhe was unſpotted, "in the prime of youth, and I too "feeble to reſiſt his brutal violence. "Oh how ſhall I ſurvive this infamy!"

'—I directed

'—I directed him to appear before the 'divan, and to procure himſelf ad-'miſſion to the emperor by the means 'of *Scherin* who rode, with me.'

"Think now, my friends, on the "conflict that muſt have ariſen within "my breaſt between my duty, and the "affection I owe to my own blood. "The *Nowian* was nearly related to "me: all the *Mongalians*, whom the "name of a *Zengide* has brought hither "from the remoteſt boundaries of the "eaſt, and whoſe love I ought to "cheriſh as the ſteadieſt ſupport of "my throne, are perhaps offended at "this inſtance of ſeverity: yet, how "could I act? Muſt not our duty be "preferred to every other advantage?"

Zeno

Zeno replied: "At *Venice* no name, "no title, ſcreens from the rigour of "the law. One of the *Zenos*, an anceſtor "of mine, had ſaved his country; "no one doubted but that his valour "alone had checked the victorious arms "of *Genoa:* he committed a ſmall treſ- "paſs, if it might be called a treſpaſs; "his laurels did not ſhelter him from "the ſevereſt puniſhment. He was "impriſoned, baniſhed, and bereaved "of all the honours and rewards "his ſervices had merited. Rigour "cannot be avoided," continued *Zeno*; "and the emperor has this day eſta- "bliſhed his throne on the firmeſt "baſis, the grateful hearts of his "admiring ſubjects."

At

At *Com*, *Dſhuneid* paid homage to the tombs of the *Imanſades*, the deſcendants of *Ali*, who lay interred in that city, and whom that prince numbered among his anceſtors. *Uſong* viſited the work-ſhops of the gunſmiths, and was pleaſed with the perfection to which they had brought the art of making all ſorts of arms out of the hardeſt ſteel.

Caſwin, one of the principal cities of the renowned *Parthia*, was now in ruins. *Uſong* reflected on the beſt means of reſtoring it to its former ſplendor; and to that end, reſolved to fix in it his reſidence for a certain time. He blamed the eaſtern princes who always reſide in the ſame capital, and thereby drain the diſtant provinces of their ſub-

ſiſtance and inhabitants; and clog the land with an enormous head, that exhauſts the limbs of all their vital ſap.

Near *Sultania*, the emperor ſaw the great ſtuds, which had been eſtabliſhed there by the *Parthian* kings, on account of the rich paſtures, and clear ſprings, for which that region is diſtinguiſhed. But far more was he delighted on viewing the extenſive plain that leads from *Aderbeitſhan* to *Tabris*; where unbounded meadows were decked with the proudeſt herbage, which thence had ſpread far to the weſt; and where thouſands of the nobleſt *Perſian* horſes grazed ſecurely.

Tabris

Tabris was then the largeſt city in the empire; but, like all other *Perſian* towns, in a defenceleſs ſtate. *Uſong*, ſenſible of the danger he was expoſed to on that ſide from the vicinity of the *Oſmans*, commanded it to be fortified, and ſtrengthened it with part of his heavy artillery. He ſingled out a ſpot, and prepared the materials for an imperial manſion.—He made an excurſion to *Amada*, the former ſeat of the *Median* throne, but now a ſtraggling village.

He came to *Irwan* a frontier town, which lay quite open to the *Oſman* arms: here he planned three citadels, encircled one within the other; which, towering aloft, commanded the road

leading to the ſnowy mountains, whereon, according to vulgar report, the ark firſt ſettled, in which the ſecond author of the human race eſcaped the general inundation.

Here, on the weſtern confines of the empire, complaints were made againſt the emperor's delegate; who, relying on his remoteneſs from court for impunity, had given way to ſubordination, and propoſed to the emperor ſeveral unworthy perſons for the inferior offices of juſtice. *Uſong* was too experienced to flatter himſelf, that, among frail men, his choice ſhould always fall upon the juſt and blameleſs. He left *Scherin* behind to examine the ſeveral charges,

charges, and in the uſual form, to draw up a ſtate and ſentence for the inſpection of the emperor—The delegate was convicted: *Uſong* ſaw the guilt, and ordered him before the divan.

" Thy ſovereign confided in thee," ſaid, in the emperor's name, the high promoted *Scherin* to the culprit. " He " is no God, he muſt ſee through the " eyes of men: veracity was thy firſt " duty. Thou waſt choſen to the ho- " nourable office of mediator to the " people: through thee their griev- " ances were to be laid at the foot of " the throne; through thee the op- " preſſed were to obtain relief. What " torments are too fierce for him, who " being appointed to diſtribute ſalu-

" tary medicines, adminiſters rank poi-
" ſon? The emperor commands thee
" to fly his preſence: go to *Kerman*,
" and never treſpaſs over the bounda-
" ries of that province; for only there
" does the law permit thee to linger
" out thy forfeit life."

From *Irwan*, *Uſong* proceeded to *Mauſel*, once the head of the *Aſſyrian* power; and from thence to *Anah*, the final limit of this expedition. Here a jubilant multitude aſſembled round his divan. Not one of his firſt ſubjects but thought his own condition happier by the exaltation of his prince: not one of his old friends and ſervants, but devoutly ſtrove to kiſs the hem of their great ſovereign's garment—*Uſong* was tender-

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ly affected at theſe manifeſt tokens of the loyalty of his grateful people, and was determined to merit the continuance of it by repeated benefits.

The *Arabian* princes, the companions of his former wars, came to viſit him, and received valuable preſents. The old *Abuſhir* repeated, once more, the great obligations the valorous *Uſong* had laid him under. The hoary age of *Haſſan* did not allow him to perform the journey. The emperor gave orders that *Anah*, being the ford of the *Euphrates*, ſhould be put in a ſtrong poſture of defence; and here took leave of *Dſhuneid* and of *Zeno*, who proceeded together to the *Palm City*. To the embaſſador he communicated

his anſwer to the ſenate confidentially and without reſerve: that he would cautiouſly watch over the enterprizes of the *Oſmans*, and lay bounds to their ambition, as often as he ſhould perceive her graſping claws. He gave *Zeno* preſents of ſilks, fine carpets, a large quantity of precious mummy that oozes from the rock of *Choraſſan*, and heals every dangerous ſore; genuine bezoar ſtones; true oil of roſes, which *Schiras* yields, and exceeds the value of the pureſt gold; turcoiſe ſtones from the ancient rock *Firuz Cuh*; pearls of *Bahrein*; noble horſes, and ſabres of the beſt tempered ſteel. He embraced his friend — "*Zeno* ſhall always find his "*Uſong* the ſame he knew him at *Alka-*"*hirah*," ſaid the emperor. He diſmiſſed the amiable *Dſhuneid* with the warmeſt

warmeſt expreſſions of his tender love. "Tell the ſervant of the Lord, "tell *Haſſan*, that *Uſong* is his ſon, and "that thou art my brother." The friends thus parted; and *Uſong*, croſſing the *Euphrates*, repaired to *Bagdad*.

This ſeat of the mighty Commanders of the faithful had been almoſt laid waſte by the cruelty of *Hulaku*, and ſome of his wicked ſucceſſors: its ſituation, which commanded the *Tigris*, and rendered it the only barrier to the ſouth-weſt of *Perſia*, induced the emperor to fortify it in the beſt manner, and to ſecure it by a ſtrong garriſon of his national troops.

Hence he reſorted to *Baſra*, the center of the maritime commerce of the empire.

empire. He made the ſtricteſt enquiries into the number of merchants that came thither; what goods they imported from the eaſt, and what they took in exchange. He collected many projects for rendering *Perſia* formidable at ſea, and hoped one day to obtain the ſuperiority in the gulph. He was ſenſible of the diſadvantages of carrying on the whole trade in foreign bottoms; and of the injuſtice it would be to his people, that they ſhould abſolutely depend upon the diſcretion of ſelfiſh ſtrangers, who not only palmed their wares upon the *Perſians* at their own prices, but alſo forced them to relinquiſh their commodities at much lower rates than their real value, becauſe the land had no other channel for the exportation of its many products both of

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art and nature. But *Uſong* was too provident to attempt all neceſſary and uſeful reformations at one time; and ſince him, the naval power of the *Portugueſe* prevented his ſucceſſors from improving theirs.

From *Baſra* the emperor came to *Jondiſabur*, the former ſeat of learning under the *Saſſanian* princes, but now decayed and deſolate: thence he went to *Suſter*, the ſtately reſidence of the magnificent *Ahaſuerus*. He hurried through *Chehelminar* back to *Schiras*, to be preſent at the delivery of the empreſs.

He gave to the daughter that was born to him the name of *Nuſhirwani*: He received her as a new pledge of his

his duty to tread in the footſteps of the great monarch, who had borne that name—Equitable in peace, victorious in the field, attentive to every branch of the public welfare, ſuch had been *Nuſhirwan*, and ſuch was *Uſong* now.

The tender frame of body, that correſponded with the meek temper of the empreſs, was ſenſibly impaired by the birth of *Nuſhirwani*, and of two princes ſhe bore ſince her. *Lioſua*'s health daily diminiſhed; but ſhe conquered every alarming indication of her decline, and the emperor perceived nothing, but the charming reſignation that was inſeparable from her gentle nature. One day ſhe craved his company, and ſhewed him her ſilk-hedges, her porcelain furnaces, her cotton-looms

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and painters, and all the other inſtitutions that thrived incredibly under her auſpicious influence. *Uſong* obſerved with pleaſure that mere nature, unaſſiſted by art, was ſufficient to hatch the valuable inſect, and bring its web to an uſeful degree of perfection. He calculated, with the penetration that was peculiar to him, the great advantage that muſt accrue to *Perſia* by this improvement; and that as theſe ſilks would ſtand in leſs expence, they muſt conſiderably under-ſell all other markets. His delegates were ordered to publiſh the invention throughout all *Perſia*; and he diſtributed, in the provinces that were beſt calculated for that purpoſe, part of the *Chineſe* workmen, who were to teach the *Perſians* the eaſy method of availing themſelves of this ſpontaneous gift of nature.

He was no leſs delighted with the beauty of the painted cottons, which, in fineneſs, exceeded all the *European* textures, and whoſe colours were of uncommon brightneſs. He ſet the example of wearing them for light ſummer garments; and the court and nation, who adored their emperor, procured ſo great a conſumption, that the number of workmen was found inſufficient, and new hands were ſent for from *China*. Thus *Perſia* acquired the riches that were before annually laviſhed on *Maſulipatan* and *Surat*.

" The induſtrious huts my *Liouſa* " has erected," ſaid *Uſong* to his charmer, ſoftly preſſing her to his enamoured boſom, " are a greater orna- " ment to the *Perſian* empire, than

" the towering pillars of *Chehelminar*,
" and the proud pyramids of *Giza*.
" True greatneſs conſiſts in the ad-
" vantage it procures; and that prince
" immortalizes his name, who by dili-
" gence and uſeful enterprizes renders
" his ſubjects happy. What if a queen
" of *Peris** was to fill my palace with
" inexhauſtible ſtores of gold and dia-
" monds; could I procure felicity to
" my ſubjects by exempting them from
" labour? I am ambitious to rule
" over an opulent people; but it muſt
" be over a people that proſpers only
" by its induſtry. *Liouſa* brings wealth
" into the empire, both by the arts
" ſhe introduces, and by the treaſures
" ſhe is the means of ſaving.

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* Fairies of the *Mahometans*.

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The empreſs poſſeſſed every endearing quality of the mind. She ſoon became miſtreſs of the *Perſian* language; and, as ſhe found a reſemblance in the poems of *Saadi* with the performances of the *Chineſe* ſages, ſhe cauſed a lofty monument to be raiſed on the grave of the wiſe moraliſt, whoſe remains were depoſited not far from *Schiras*; and his encomium to be engraved on a marble pyramid. She alſo appointed near his tomb, a learned *Mollah*, who was daily to repeat, to the aſſembled youth, ſome verſes of the ſublime bard; and to add his own explanations, painting the charms of virtue in the livelieſt colours.

G.R.III. BR. MUS.

THE END OF VOL. I.